Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 1263

Brief Description: Reducing the financial loss to emergency medical care and transportation services by ensuring direct payment for emergency transportation services.

Sponsors: Representatives Angel, Van De Wege, Cody, Tharinger, Ryu and Fey.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Requires health service contractors to reimburse emergency medical care and transportation services directly to the provider or in a manner that is co-payable.

Hearing Date: 1/29/13

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

A health care services contractor is an entity that contracts with a network of providers to meet the needs of its covered lives. When paying claims for services provided by certain out-of-network providers, such as physicians, registered nurses, providers of emergency medical and transportation services, and chiropractors, a health care services contractor must make the check out to both the provider and the covered person. If the covered person provides evidence of prepayment, the check may be made out solely to the person.

Summary of Bill:

A health care services contractor must pay claims for emergency medical care and transportation services directly to the provider or in a manner that is co-payable.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.