

## **Legislature - First Session - 2019**

### **Introducer's Statement of Intent**

#### **LB645**

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**Chairperson: Senator Sara Howard**

**Committee: Health and Human Services**

**Date of Hearing: March 28, 2019**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose of LB 645 is to amend the state plan as first outlined in LB 578, which was signed into law in 2017. LB 578, as amended by LB 645, provides for a higher Medicaid reimbursement rate for ground emergency medical transports in an effort to pay closer to the actual cost.

Most of those unreimbursed costs are currently falling on local taxpayers. This bill recognizes that medical care occurs during the emergency transport, and the bill will provide reimbursement to public and non-profit emergency transporters. The funding source is all federal funding and requires no state funds.

Participation in the Ground Emergency Transport Program will be optional to the local agencies. The Department of Health and Human Services Department may recoup any of its administrative costs associated with this program from the enhanced federal reimbursement.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Mike McDonnell