

HOUSE BILL 1649

By Jones U

AN ACT to make appropriations for the purpose of reimbursing Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible enrollees who utilize emergency medical services. This act makes appropriations for the purpose of reimbursing certain Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible enrollees who utilize emergency medical services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009.

WHEREAS, recent TennCare budget revisions in the 2008-2009 General Appropriations Act eliminated copay reimbursements for certain Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible enrollees who utilize emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, ambulance services for all persons in Tennessee have been adversely affected by these rules, given that time is critical when such services are needed and persons may suffer catastrophic results from delays in receiving ambulance services; and

WHEREAS, the budget cuts in question have had an unnecessarily severe and avoidable impact upon all persons in Tennessee who find themselves in a dire medical situation requiring an immediate medical response; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated the sum of \$4,000,000 to the Bureau of TennCare for the sole purpose of funding copay reimbursements for Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible enrollees who utilize emergency medical services.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.