



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 638

PRINTERS NO. 1828

PRIME SPONSOR: Ward

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
General Fund	(\$921,000)	(\$921,000)

SUMMARY: Amends the Public Welfare Code to limit mileage reimbursement and paratransit services provided through the Medical Assistance Transportation Program to individuals receiving methadone treatment. Effective date is in 30 days.

ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 638 provides that an individual receiving methadone treatment by a licensed provider would be eligible for mileage reimbursement equal to the distance from the individual's residence to the treatment program closet to the individual's residence or paratransit services if the treatment is received at the narcotic treatment program closest to the individual's residence based on a one-way trip calculation. The department would be required to develop an exceptions process based on medical emergency, physical health, safety issues and availability of closest provider. County medical assistance transportation programs, consulting with the department, are required to develop procedures for the prevention, detection and reporting of suspected fraud and abuse relating to the reimbursement of mileage for methadone treatment. The department would be required to issue biennial reports to the General Assembly and the Governor detailing costs and cost savings related to implementing the provisions of this legislation; the first report is to be issued no later than one year from the effective date.

FISCAL IMPACT: Federal regulations require the medical assistance program to provide transportation to medical providers for recipients. The medical assistance transportation program which is a county administered program provides the non-emergency medical transportation services. For FY2011-12, \$65.221 million in state and \$63 million in federal funds has been appropriated for the Medical Assistance Transportation Program which assumes \$921,000 in state savings and \$875,000 in federal savings (a total of \$1.796 million) for the closest methadone clinic limitation.

PREPARED BY: Kathy Vranicar
House Appropriations Committee (R)
DATE: December 6, 2011

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.