

Senate Bill No. 97

(By Senator Laird)

[Introduced January 14, 2015; referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §5-16-8a, relating to air-ambulance fees paid by the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency; and establishing maximum amount permitted to be collected.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §5-16-8a, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 16. WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES INSURANCE ACT.

§5-16-8a. Air-ambulance fees.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, any air-ambulance provider which does not have a contract with the plan and which provides air-transportation or related emergency or treatment services, or both, to an employee or dependent of an employee covered by the plan, may not collect from the plan and the covered employee or dependent of the employee, a

1 combined amount for those services which exceeds the reimbursement amount then in effect for the
2 federal Medicare program, including any applicable Geographic Practice Cost Index.

3 (b) If an air-ambulance provider has collected a subscription fee from an employee or
4 dependent of an employee covered by the plan, the air-ambulance provider shall accept that
5 subscription fee as payment in full for any air-ambulance transport and related emergency or
6 treatment services which the air-ambulance provider may provide to that employee or dependent of
7 the employee. For purposes of this section, a subscription fee is a fee collected by an air-ambulance
8 provider from a person in advance of any immediate need for air-ambulance services.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to set the maximum amount for air-ambulance services which may be collected pursuant to the plans of the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency.

This section is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.