

HB 61 -- Transportation and Ancillary Services for Medical Treatment

Sponsor: Lipke

This bill establishes the Evan de Mello Reimbursement Program within the departments of Health and Senior Services and Mental Health to provide financial assistance for the cost of transportation and ancillary services associated with the medical treatment of an eligible child. The program is the payer of last resort after all other available sources have been exhausted, and reimbursement is subject to appropriations. To be eligible for assistance under the program, a child must be suffering from a condition or impairment that results in severe physical illness or impairments, in need of transportation or ancillary services due to his or her condition, certified by a physician of the child's choice as a child who will likely benefit from medical services, and required to travel at least 100 miles for medical services which the child's parents or guardian are unable to pay the travel expenses.

The departments must establish rules which include an application and review process, a cap on benefits that cannot be less than \$5,000 per recipient, and a household income eligibility limit which cannot exceed 350% of the federal poverty level.