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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- HOSPITAL CHARGES

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Ruggerio, Sosnowski, DaPonte, and Picard

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-17 of the General Laws entitled "Licensing of Health Care  
2 Facilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

3 **23-17-60. Compilation and publication of the charges for common hospital**  
4 **procedures. -- (a) Each hospital, licensed under this chapter, shall compile a list of its twenty-**  
5 **five (25) most commonly performed outpatient procedures and shall submit annually to the**  
6 **department of health a list of its average charges for those procedures, in a uniform reporting**  
7 **form adopted by the department.**

8 **(b) The department shall establish a list of its twenty-five (25) most commonly performed**  
9 **inpatient procedures in Rhode Island hospitals, as grouped by a Medicare diagnostic-related**  
10 **group. The department of health shall annually develop a list of each hospital's average charges**  
11 **for those procedures. The department shall publish this compiled information on its website.**

12 **(c) Each hospital shall provide a copy of the lists described in subsections (a) and (b) to**  
13 **any person upon request.**

14 **23-17-61. Written estimates for hospital medical services. -- Upon the request of any**  
15 **person without health coverage or an insurance deductible of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or**  
16 **higher, a hospital shall provide that person with a written estimate of the amount the hospital will**  
17 **require the person to pay for the health care services, procedures, and supplies that are reasonably**  
18 **expected to be provided to the person by the hospital, based upon an average length of stay and**  
19 **services provided for the person's diagnosis. The hospital may provide this estimate during**

1 [normal business office hours. In addition to the estimate, the hospital shall provide information](#)  
2 [about its financial assistance and charity care policies and contact information for a hospital](#)  
3 [employee or office from which the person may obtain further information about these policies. If](#)  
4 [requested, the hospital shall also provide the person with an application for financial assistance or](#)  
5 [charity care. This section shall not apply to emergency services.](#)

6 SECTION 2. Section 23-17-36 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-17 entitled "Licensing  
7 of Health Care Facilities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 **23-17-36. Rules and regulations.** -- The director of the department of health is  
9 authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the intent of this chapter [as well as](#)  
10 [establishing administrative penalties for violations of the provisions of §§ 23-17-60 and 23-17-61.](#)

11 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would require all Rhode Island hospitals to annually compile a list of the average  
2 charges for twenty-five (25) most commonly performed outpatient and inpatient procedures and  
3 to submit these lists to the department of health. These lists would be made public by the  
4 department of health. It would also require a hospital, upon the request of a prospective patient  
5 with no health coverage, to provide that person with a written estimate of the amount the hospital  
6 will require that person to pay for those reasonably expected health care services, procedures and  
7 supplies. Finally, it would require he hospital to provide information about its financial assistance  
8 and charity care policies to its patients upon request.

9           This act would take effect upon passage.

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