

2015 -- S 0325

LC001171

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

HEALTH AND SAFETY - LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Archambault, McCaffrey, and Crowley

Date Introduced: February 12, 2015

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Sections 23-17-60 and 23-17-61 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-17 entitled "Licensing of Health Care Facilities" are hereby amended to read as follows:

23-17-60. Compilation and publication of the charges for common hospital procedures. -- (a) Each hospital, licensed under this chapter, shall compile a list of its twenty-five (25) most commonly performed outpatient procedures and the total payroll including fringe benefits, and any other remuneration of the top five (5) highest compensated employees, identified by position description and specialty; and shall submit annually to the department of health a list of the range of average charges for each procedure, and the total payroll of the top five (5) highest compensated employees, in a uniform reporting form adopted by the department.

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

(c) Each hospital shall provide a copy of the lists of procedures described in subsections (a) and (b) to any person upon request. Each hospital shall additionally post the lists in an area used by the public, and on its publicly accessible website.

23-17-61. Written estimates for hospital medical services. -- Upon the request of any person without health coverage or with an insurance deductible of five thousand dollars (\$5,000)

1 or higher, a hospital shall [within two \(2\) working days](#), provide that person with a written
2 estimate based upon the best medical information known at the time, of the amount the hospital
3 will require the person to pay for the health care services, procedures, and supplies that are
4 reasonably expected to be provided to the person by the hospital, based upon an average length of
5 stay and services provided for the person's diagnosis [and including the amount for any facility](#)
6 [fees required](#). The estimate may also indicate that it does not reflect any unanticipated services
7 that become apparent at the time of treatment. The hospital may provide this estimate during
8 normal business office hours. In addition to the estimate, the hospital shall provide information
9 about its financial assistance and charity care policies and contact information for a hospital
10 employee or office from which the person may obtain further information about these policies. If
11 requested, the hospital shall also provide the person with an application for financial assistance or
12 charity care. This section shall not apply to emergency services.

13 SECTION 2. 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 hospitals to publicize their total payroll, including fringe benefits
2 in addition to the top five (5) highest paid employees, identified by position description and
3 specialty. It would also set a two (2) day time limit within which a hospital must provide written
4 estimates for medical services over five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and facility fees.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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