



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

**Raised Bill No. 5300**

LCO No. 1517

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Referred to Committee on Insurance and Real Estate

Introduced by:  
(INS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL CHARGES FOR UNINSURED PATIENTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-673 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Cost of providing services" means a hospital's published  
5 charges at the time of billing, multiplied by the hospital's most recent  
6 relationship of costs to charges as taken from the hospital's most  
7 recently available annual financial filing with the Office of Health Care  
8 Access.

9 (2) "Hospital" means an institution licensed by the Department of  
10 Public Health as a short-term general hospital.

11 (3) "Poverty income guidelines" means the poverty income  
12 guidelines issued from time to time by the United States Department  
13 of Health and Human Services.

14 (4) "Uninsured patient" means any person who is liable for one or  
15 more hospital charges whose income is at or below two hundred fifty  
16 per cent of the poverty income guidelines who (A) has applied and  
17 been denied eligibility for any medical or health care coverage  
18 provided under the state-administered general assistance program or  
19 the Medicaid program due to failure to satisfy income or other  
20 eligibility requirements, and (B) is not eligible for coverage for hospital  
21 services under the Medicare or CHAMPUS programs, or under any  
22 Medicaid or health insurance program of any other nation, state,  
23 territory or commonwealth, or under any other governmental or  
24 privately sponsored health or accident insurance or benefit program  
25 including, but not limited to, workers' compensation and awards,  
26 settlements or judgments arising from claims, suits or proceedings  
27 involving motor vehicle accidents or alleged negligence.

28 (b) No hospital that has provided health care services to (1) an  
29 uninsured patient, or (2) a patient who does not have health insurance  
30 coverage and whose income is above two hundred fifty per cent of the  
31 poverty income guidelines may collect from [the uninsured patient]  
32 such patients more than the cost of providing services. Any such costs  
33 shall be limited to one hundred fifteen per cent of the lowest amount  
34 such hospital receives for the relevant procedures or services from any  
35 insurer or health care center or from Medicare, whichever is less.

36 (c) Each collection agent, as defined in section 19a-509b, engaged in  
37 collecting a debt from a patient arising from services provided at a  
38 hospital shall provide written notice to such patient as to whether the  
39 hospital deems the patient an insured patient, a patient who does not  
40 have health insurance coverage or an uninsured patient and the  
41 reasons for such determination.

42 Sec. 2. Section 19a-681 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
43 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

44 (a) Each hospital shall file with the office its current pricemaster  
45 which shall include each charge in its detailed schedule of charges.

46 (b) If the billing detail by line item on a patient bill does not agree  
47 with the detailed schedule of charges on file with the office for the date  
48 of service specified on the bill, the hospital shall be subject to a civil  
49 penalty of five hundred dollars per occurrence payable to the state not  
50 later than fourteen days after the date of notification. The penalty shall  
51 be imposed in accordance with subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of  
52 section 19a-653. The office may issue an order requiring such hospital,  
53 not later than fourteen days after the date of notification of an  
54 overcharge to a patient, to adjust the bill to be consistent with the  
55 schedule of charges on file with the office for the date of service  
56 specified on the patient bill.

57 (c) The office shall post the pricemasters filed under subsection (a)  
58 of this section on the Department of Public Health's Internet web site.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	19a-673
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	19a-681

**Statement of Purpose:**

To limit the amount hospitals may charge patients without health insurance coverage and to require the Office of Health Care Access to post hospital pricemasters on the Department of Public Health's web site.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*