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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:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-17-61 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-17 entitled "Licensing
2 of Health Care Facilities" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-17-61. Written estimates for hospital medical services.** -- Upon the request of any
4 person without health coverage or with an insurance deductible of five thousand dollars (\$5,000)
5 or higher, a hospital shall within five (5) calendar days provide that person with a written estimate
6 based upon the best medical information known at the time, of the amount the hospital will
7 require the person to pay for the health care services, procedures, and supplies that are reasonably
8 expected to be provided to the person by the hospital, based upon an average length of stay and
9 services provided for the person's diagnosis. The estimate may also indicate that it does not
10 reflect any unanticipated services that become apparent at the time of treatment. The hospital may
11 provide this estimate during normal business office hours. In addition to the estimate, the hospital
12 shall provide information about its financial assistance and charity care policies and contact
13 information for a hospital employee or office from which the person may obtain further
14 information about these policies. If requested, the hospital shall also provide the person with an
15 application for financial assistance or charity care. This section shall not apply to emergency
16 services.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
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- 1 This act would require hospitals to provide within five (5) days, upon request, a written
2 estimate for hospital services to those people without health coverage or those with insurance
3 carrying a five thousand dollar (\$5,000) deductible or higher.
4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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