

2016 -- S 2207

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LC003954
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Introduced By: Senators Miller, McCaffrey, Sosnowski, Pichardo, and Walaska

Date Introduced: January 27, 2016

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

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 the total payroll including fringe
6 benefits, and any other remuneration of the top five (5) highest compensated employees,
7 identified by position description and specialty; and shall submit annually to the department of
8 health a list of the range of average charges for each procedure, and the total payroll of the top
9 five (5) highest compensated employees in a uniform reporting form adopted by the department.

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

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

18 **23-17-61. Written estimates for hospital medical services.** -- Upon the request of any
19 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 total payroll, including fringe benefits, for
2 their top five (5) highest paid employees, identified by position description and specialty. It
3 would also require that hospitals provide within two (2) days, a written estimate for medical
4 services over five thousand dollars (\$5,000) including facility fees.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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