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

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

1 This act would require hospitals to provide within two (2) business days, a written
2 estimate for medical services over five thousand dollars (\$5,000), including facility fees.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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