

**SENATE, No. 2081**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator RICHARD J. CODEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes cap on amount that hospital can charge patients for laboratory services to 150% of Medicare.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning hospital charges for laboratory services and  
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Except as provided by section 1 of P.L.2008, c.60 (C.26:2H-  
8 12.52), a hospital that is licensed by the Department of Health  
9 pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et al.) shall charge a patient  
10 in this State an amount no greater than 150% of the applicable  
11 payment rate under the federal Medicare program, established  
12 pursuant to Pub.L.89-97 (42 U.S.C. s.1395 et seq.), for any  
13 laboratory services that are rendered to the patient.

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15 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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20 This bill would prohibit a hospital from billing certain patients  
21 for laboratory services in an amount that exceeds 150% of the  
22 applicable payment rate under the federal Medicare program.

23 Under existing law, at P.L.2008, c.60 (C.26:2H-12.52 et seq.),  
24 whenever a hospital provides health care services (including  
25 laboratory services) to an uninsured patient whose family gross  
26 income is less than 500% of the federal poverty level, the hospital is  
27 prohibited from charging the patient more than 115% of the  
28 applicable payment rate for those services under the federal  
29 Medicare program. This bill would establish a similar cap on  
30 charges for laboratory services that are provided to patients who do  
31 not satisfy the income and other requirements of P.L.2008, c.60. In  
32 particular, the bill would provide that, except in cases where the  
33 provisions of P.L.2008, c.60 are applicable, a hospital will be  
34 prohibited from charging a patient in this State more than 150% of  
35 the applicable payment rate under the federal Medicare program for  
36 any laboratory services that are rendered to the patient. The  
37 existing 115% cap established under P.L.2008, c.60 would still be  
38 applicable to laboratory and other health care services that are  
39 provided by a hospital to uninsured persons who satisfy the  
40 applicable income requirements.