

ASSEMBLY, No. 2703

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 1997

By Assemblyman BARNES and Assemblywoman BUONO

1 AN ACT concerning billing practices of acute care hospitals and
2 supplementing P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).

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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. A patient at an acute care hospital licensed pursuant to
8 P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) is entitled to receive an itemized
9 copy of the bill which details the services provided to the patient in
10 plain language, in accordance with standards adopted by the
11 Commissioner of Health. If the acute care hospital has forwarded the
12 original bill to a designated third party payer, the copy of the bill
13 provided to the patient shall include a statement in bold print at the top
14 which notifies the patient that it is a copy of the bill for the patient's
15 records, and that a bill has been forwarded to the third party payer
16 designated by the patient. At the time a patient is admitted to an acute
17 care hospital, the acute care hospital shall provide a form to the patient
18 on which the patient may indicate that he wishes to receive a copy of
19 the bill for services provided to him at the acute care hospital,
20 notwithstanding any designation of a third party payer.

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22 2. The Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the "Administrative
23 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt
24 rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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26 3. This act shall take effect 90 days following the date of
27 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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32 The bill requires an acute care hospital to furnish each patient, upon
33 request, with an itemized copy of the bill which details the services
34 provided to the patient in plain language. When appropriate, the copy
35 of the bill is to include a statement in bold print at the top which
36 notifies the patient that it is a copy of the bill for the patient's records,
37 and that a bill has been forwarded to the third party payer designated

1 by the patient. The bill provides that the patient, at the time of
2 admission, may indicate on a form that he wishes to receive a copy of
3 the bill. This bill is intended to facilitate patients' efforts to
4 communicate with their insurers regarding services received, as
5 necessary.

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10 Requires acute care hospitals to provide patients with itemized bill.