

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 353—ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE

MARCH 22, 2005

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning hospital charges.
(BDR 40-1164)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to health care; requiring major hospitals to submit to the Director of the Department of Human Resources certain information concerning their charges, their provision of discounted services to or reduction of charges for persons without health insurance and their collection of unpaid charges; increasing the amount by which certain hospitals are required to reduce or discount the total billed charges for hospital services provided to certain uninsured patients; removing the requirement that certain hospitals reduce or discount the total billed charges of their outpatient pharmacies to patients who are eligible for Medicare; requiring certain hospitals to provide to persons receiving services certain information concerning the duty of those hospitals to reduce billed charges for certain patients; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** Chapter 439B of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:
3 ***1. Each major hospital in this State shall, on or before***
4 ***January 1 of each year, submit to the Department in the manner***
5 ***and form prescribed by the Director a complete charge master for***
6 ***the hospital that will be effective on January 1 of that year.***



1 2. Each major hospital in this State shall, on or before July 1
2 of each year, submit to the Department in the manner and form
3 prescribed by the Director:

4 (a) A statement of its policies and procedures for providing
5 discounted services to, or reducing charges for services provided
6 to, persons without health insurance that are in addition to any
7 reduction or discount required to be provided pursuant to NRS
8 439B.260; and

9 (b) A statement of its policies and procedures for collecting
10 unpaid charges for services provided by the hospital, including,
11 without limitation, the amount of interest charged by the hospital
12 and the manner in which it uses collection agencies.

13 3. Each time a major hospital in this State revises any of its
14 policies and procedures described in subsection 2, the major
15 hospital shall submit to the Department in the manner and form
16 prescribed by the Director a statement of its revised policies and
17 procedures.

18 4. On or before October 1 of each year, the Director shall
19 prepare and submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel
20 Bureau for submission to the Legislative Committee on Health
21 Care and to either the Legislature, or to the Legislative
22 Commission and the Interim Finance Committee when the
23 Legislature is not in regular session, a report concerning the
24 information the Department receives pursuant to this section. The
25 report may be included in the report the Director prepares
26 pursuant to NRS 449.520 if the Director transmits that report to
27 the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for submission to
28 the entities that must receive the report pursuant to this
29 subsection. The report must include, without limitation:

30 (a) A review and comparison of the policies and procedures
31 used by major hospitals in this State to provide discounted services
32 to, and to reduce charges for services provided to, persons without
33 health insurance; and

34 (b) A review and comparison of the policies and procedures
35 used by major hospitals in this State to collect unpaid charges for
36 services provided by the hospitals.

37 5. The Director shall:

38 (a) Provide the public with access to the information the
39 Department receives pursuant to this section in a form prescribed
40 by the Director;

41 (b) To the extent reasonably possible, post the information the
42 Department receives pursuant to this section on a website or other
43 Internet site that is operated or administered by or on behalf of the
44 Department; and



(c) Provide a copy of the information the Department receives pursuant to this section to the Director of the Office for Consumer Health Assistance.

6. As used in this section, "charge master" means the uniform list of billed charges described in NRS 439B.400, except that the term includes the uniform list of billed charges for units of service or goods provided on an outpatient basis.

Sec. 2. NRS 439B.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439B.260 1. A major hospital shall reduce or discount the total billed charge by at least ~~30~~ 50 percent for hospital services provided to an inpatient who:

(a) Has no insurance or other contractual provision for the payment of the charge by a third party;

(b) Is not eligible for coverage by a state or federal program of public assistance that would provide for the payment of the charge; and

(c) Makes reasonable arrangements within 30 days after discharge to pay his hospital bill.

2. A major hospital or patient who disputes the reasonableness of arrangements made pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 may submit the dispute to the Bureau for Hospital Patients for resolution as provided in NRS 223.575.

3. ~~{A} Each~~ major hospital shall ~~[reduce or discount the total billed charge of its outpatient pharmacy by at least 30 percent to a patient who is eligible for Medicare.]~~:

(a) In language that is easy to understand, written in English and Spanish, prepare a summary of all the provisions of this section and post the summary in a conspicuous place in each public waiting room of the hospital; and

(b) At the time that the hospital is arranging for payment from a person who received services or goods from the hospital, either:

(1) Provide to each person who satisfies the criteria set forth pursuant to subsection 4 a copy of the summary prepared pursuant to paragraph (a); or

(2) Provide to each person a copy of the summary prepared pursuant to paragraph (a).

4. The Director shall adopt regulations setting forth the criteria for identifying the persons who must be provided a summary pursuant to subparagraph (1) of paragraph (b) of subsection 3.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.



