

Senate Bill No. 155—Senators Titus, Wiener, Horsford, Care,
Carlton, Coffin, Lee, Mathews and Schneider

Joint Sponsor: Assemblywoman Leslie

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to public health; requiring hospitals to provide patients with certain information regarding the Bureau for Hospital Patients; requiring hospitals to provide patients with certain information regarding the reduction and discounting of charges; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires each medical facility, facility for the dependent and home for individual residential care to inform each patient or his legal representative, upon admission to the facility or home, of certain rights of the patient. (NRS 449.730)

This bill requires each hospital, upon the admission of a patient, to provide to the patient or his legal representative certain written information explaining the existence of the Bureau for Hospital Patients within the Office for Consumer Health Assistance in the Office of the Governor, the services provided by the Bureau and the manner in which the Bureau may be contacted.

This bill also requires each hospital, upon the discharge of a patient, to provide to the patient or his legal representative certain written information explaining certain statutory requirements and certain policies and procedures pursuant to which the hospital: (1) reduces charges for services provided to persons; or (2) provides discounted services to persons.

This bill further requires each hospital to post in a conspicuous place in each public waiting room in the hospital a legible sign or notice that provides a brief description of any policies and procedures the hospital may have adopted to reduce charges for services provided to persons or to provide discounted services to persons. The sign or notice must be easy to understand and written in English and Spanish.

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

Section 1. NRS 449.730 is hereby amended to read as follows:

449.730 1. Every medical facility, facility for the dependent and home for individual residential care shall inform each patient or his legal representative, upon his admission to the facility or home, of the patient's rights as listed in NRS 449.700, 449.710, 449.715 and 449.720.

2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, if a person with a disability is a patient at a facility, as that term is defined in NRS 449.771, the facility shall inform the patient of his rights pursuant to NRS 449.765 to 449.786, inclusive.

3. In addition to the requirements of subsections 1 and 2, every hospital shall, upon the admission of a patient to the

hospital, provide to the patient or his legal representative a written disclosure approved by the Director, which written disclosure must set forth:

(a) Notice of the existence of the Bureau for Hospital Patients created pursuant to NRS 223.575;

(b) The address and telephone number of the Bureau; and

(c) An explanation of the services provided by the Bureau, including, without limitation, the services for dispute resolution described in subsection 3 of NRS 223.575.

4. In addition to the requirements of subsections 1, 2 and 3, every hospital shall, upon the discharge of a patient from the hospital, provide to the patient or his legal representative a written disclosure approved by the director, which written disclosure must set forth:

(a) If the hospital is a major hospital:

(1) Notice of the reduction or discount available pursuant to NRS 439B.260, including, without limitation, notice of the criteria a patient must satisfy to qualify for a reduction or discount under that section; and

(2) Notice of any policies and procedures the hospital may have adopted to reduce charges for services provided to persons or to provide discounted services to persons, which policies and procedures are in addition to any reduction or discount required to be provided pursuant to NRS 439B.260. The notice required by this subparagraph must describe the criteria a patient must satisfy to qualify for the additional reduction or discount, including, without limitation, any relevant limitations on income and any relevant requirements as to the period within which the patient must arrange to make payment.

(b) If the hospital is not a major hospital, notice of any policies and procedures the hospital may have adopted to reduce charges for services provided to persons or to provide discounted services to persons. The notice required by this paragraph must describe the criteria a patient must satisfy to qualify for the reduction or discount, including, without limitation, any relevant limitations on income and any relevant requirements as to the period within which the patient must arrange to make payment.

↪ As used in this subsection, "major hospital" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 439B.115.

5. In addition to the requirements of subsections 1 to 4, inclusive, every hospital shall post in a conspicuous place in each public waiting room in the hospital a legible sign or notice in 14-point type or larger, which sign or notice must:

(a) Provide a brief description of any policies and procedures the hospital may have adopted to reduce charges for services

provided to persons or to provide discounted services to persons, including, without limitation:

(1) Instructions for receiving additional information regarding such policies and procedures; and

(2) Instructions for arranging to make payment;

(b) Be written in language that is easy to understand; and

(c) Be written in English and Spanish.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.

