
SENATE BILL NO. 9—COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE
FINANCING AND POLICY)

PREFILED JANUARY 31, 2005

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Education

SUMMARY—Increases amount by which certain hospitals are required to reduce or discount certain charges billed to certain uninsured patients and to patients who are eligible for Medicare. (BDR 40-374)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
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; 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; increasing the amount by which those hospitals are required to reduce or discount the total billed charges of their outpatient pharmacies to patients who are eligible for Medicare; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law requires a major hospital to reduce or discount the total billed
2 charges for inpatient services by at least 30 percent for an uninsured patient who is
3 not eligible for public assistance and who makes reasonable arrangements within 30
4 days after discharge to pay the hospital bill. In addition, major hospitals are
5 required to reduce or discount the total billed charge of its outpatient pharmacy by
6 at least 30 percent for a patient who is eligible for Medicare. (NRS 439B.260)
7 Existing law provides that a major hospital, as referred to in these provisions, is a
8 hospital with 200 or more licensed or approved beds or a group of closely
9 associated hospitals in a county with a combined total of 200 or more licensed or
10 approved beds. Hospitals operated by a federal, state or local governmental agency,
11 however, are not considered major hospitals and therefore are not required to
12 provide those reductions or discounts. (NRS 439B.115)



13 This bill increases the amount of the reductions or discounts that a major
14 hospital is required to provide on the total billed charges for inpatient services and
15 outpatient pharmaceuticals in those circumstances from 30 to 50 percent.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 439B.260 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 439B.260 1. A major hospital shall reduce or discount the
4 total billed charge by at least ~~30~~ 50 percent for hospital services
5 provided to an inpatient who:

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

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

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

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

17 3. A major hospital shall reduce or discount the total billed
18 charge of its outpatient pharmacy by at least ~~30~~ 50 percent to a
19 patient who is eligible for Medicare.

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

