

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 456—ASSEMBLYMEN BEERS, CLABORN,
GERHARDT, GOEDHART, GRADY, MARVEL, SEGERBLOM,
SETTELMAYER, STEWART AND WOMACK

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the billing practices of
hospitals. (BDR 40-795)

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; prohibiting a hospital from
charging for a service, room, equipment, supplies or
medicine unless actually provided to a patient; and
providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 Under existing law, each hospital in this State is required to maintain and use a
2 uniform list of billed charges for the medical care provided to patients. (NRS
3 439B.400) Existing law also requires each hospital to include on its billings to
4 patients an itemized list of charges provided or, if the hospital has contracted for a
5 specified rate, a statement specifying the agreed rate for services. (NRS 449.243)
6 This bill prohibits a hospital from charging a patient for a service, room,
7 equipment, supplies or medicine unless actually used by or provided to the patient.

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

- 1 **Section 1.** NRS 439B.400 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:
3 439B.400 **1.** Each hospital in this State shall maintain and
4 use a uniform list of billed charges for that hospital for units of
5 service or goods provided to all inpatients. A hospital may not use a
6 billed charge for an inpatient that is different than the billed charge
7 used for another inpatient for the same service or goods provided.
8 This ~~section~~ **subsection** does not restrict the ability of a hospital or



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1 other person to negotiate a discounted rate from the hospital's billed
2 charges or to contract for a different rate or mechanism for payment
3 of the hospital.

4 **2. A hospital shall not charge an inpatient for:**

5 (a) A service;

6 (b) A room;

7 (c) Equipment;

8 (d) Supplies; or

9 (e) Medicine,

10 **↪ unless actually used by or provided to the inpatient.**

11 **Sec. 2.** NRS 449.243 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 449.243 1. Every hospital licensed pursuant to the provisions
13 of NRS 449.001 to 449.240, inclusive:

14 ~~{1-}~~ (a) May, except as otherwise provided in ~~{subsection 2,~~
15 ~~utilize}~~ **paragraph (b), use** the Uniform Billing and Claims Forms
16 established by the American Hospital Association.

17 ~~{2-}~~ (b) Shall, except as otherwise provided in this section, on
18 its billings to patients, itemize, on a daily basis, all charges for
19 services, and charges for equipment used and the supplies and
20 medicines provided incident to the provision of those services with
21 specificity and in language that is understandable to an ordinary lay
22 person. This itemized list must be timely provided after the patient
23 is discharged at no additional cost.

24 ~~{3-}~~ (c) Except as otherwise provided in this ~~{subsection,}~~
25 **paragraph**, if a patient is charged a rate, pursuant to a contract or
26 other agreement, that is different than the billed charges, ~~{the~~
27 ~~hospital}~~ shall provide to the patient either:

28 ~~{(a)}~~ (1) A copy of the billing prepared pursuant to ~~{subsection~~
29 ~~2;~~

30 ~~—(b)}~~ **paragraph (b);**

31 (2) A statement specifying the agreed rate for the services; or
32 ~~{(c)}~~ (3) If the patient is not obligated to pay any portion of the
33 bill, a statement of the total charges.

34 **↪** In any case, the hospital shall include on the billing or statement
35 any copayment or deductible for which the patient is responsible.
36 The hospital shall answer any questions regarding the bill.

37 ~~{4-}~~ (d) If the hospital is paid by the insurer of a patient a rate
38 that is based on the number of persons treated and not on the
39 services actually rendered, ~~{the hospital}~~ shall, upon the discharge of
40 the patient, advise the patient of the status of any copayment or
41 deductible for which the patient is responsible.

42 ~~{5-}~~ (e) Shall prepare a summary of charges for common
43 services for patients admitted to the hospital and make it available to
44 the public. **The summary must include a statement that the**
45 **hospital does not charge a patient for services, rooms, equipment,**



supplies or medicines unless actually used by or provided to the patient.

~~{6.1}~~ (f) Shall provide to any patient upon request a copy of the billing prepared pursuant to ~~{subsection 2.1}~~ *paragraph (b).*

2. A hospital licensed pursuant to the provisions of NRS 449.001 to 449.240, inclusive, shall not charge a patient for:

(a) A service;

(b) A room;

(c) Equipment;

(d) Supplies; or

(e) Medicine,

↪ unless actually used by or provided to the patient.

