
By: **Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (Departmental - Health and Mental Hygiene)**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1998

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Services Cost Review Commission - Hospital Rates - Outpatient**
3 **Services**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Health Services Cost Review Commission to define
5 certain hospital outpatient services for which a hospital may charge less than
6 certain rates under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the
7 Commission and rates for certain hospital outpatient services.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Health - General
10 Section 19-217(b)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Health - General**

16 19-217.

17 (b) (1) The Commission shall define, by rule or regulation, the types and
18 classes of charges that may not be changed, except as specified in § 19-219 of this
19 subtitle.

20 (2) (I) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEFINE THE TYPES AND CLASSES OF
21 HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT SERVICES FOR WHICH A HOSPITAL MAY CHARGE LESS THAN
22 A COMMISSION-APPROVED RATE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

23 1. THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH MAXIMUM
24 APPROVABLE RATES;

25 2. THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH MINIMUM
26 APPROVABLE RATES; AND

1 3. ANY REVENUE LOSS ASSOCIATED WITH A HOSPITAL
2 CHARGING LESS THAN A COMMISSION-APPROVED RATE MAY NOT BE:

3 A. RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSION AS REASONABLE
4 COSTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT; OR

5 B. CONSIDERED JUSTIFICATION FOR A RATE INCREASE.

6 (II) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT
7 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

8 (III) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS PROVIDING FOR
9 THE REGULATORY TREATMENT OF SOCIAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES AND
10 CLASSES OF HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT SERVICES DEFINED BY THE COMMISSION
11 UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
13 effect October 1, 1998.