

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 776

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 4, strike “each hospital” and substitute “the Health Services Cost Review Commission to require certain hospitals”; in line 8, strike “Health Services Cost Review”; strike beginning with the second “a” in line 19 down through “purpose” in line 20 and substitute “certain purposes”; and strike beginning with “requiring” in line 23 down through “bill;” in line 25.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 25 through 28 and substitute:

“(A) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE EACH ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL IN THE STATE TO DEVELOP A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY FOR PROVIDING FREE AND REDUCED-COST CARE TO PATIENTS WHO LACK HEALTH CARE COVERAGE OR WHOSE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE DOES NOT PAY THE FULL COST OF THE HOSPITAL BILL.

(2) THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY SHALL PROVIDE, AT A MINIMUM;

in line 29, strike “(1)” and substitute “(I)”; in the same line, after “**FREE**” insert “MEDICALLY NECESSARY”; in line 31, strike “(2)” and substitute “(II)”; in the same line, after “**REDUCED-COST**” insert “MEDICALLY NECESSARY”; and after line 33, insert:

(Over)

“(3) (I) THE COMMISSION BY REGULATION MAY ESTABLISH INCOME THRESHOLDS HIGHER THAN THOSE UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(II) IN ESTABLISHING INCOME THRESHOLDS THAT ARE HIGHER THAN THOSE UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR A HOSPITAL, THE COMMISSION SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT:

1. THE PATIENT MIX OF THE HOSPITAL;
2. THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE HOSPITAL;
3. THE LEVEL OF BAD DEBT EXPERIENCED BY THE HOSPITAL; AND
4. THE AMOUNT OF CHARITY CARE PROVIDED BY THE HOSPITAL.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 4, in line 3, strike “AND”; in line 5, after “PROGRAM” insert “; AND

(V) INCLUDES A STATEMENT THAT PHYSICIAN CHARGES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE HOSPITAL BILL AND ARE BILLED SEPARATELY”;

and strike beginning with “AT” in line 9 down through “HOSPITAL” in line 11 and substitute “BEFORE DISCHARGE”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 5, in line 15, strike “**PROVIDE THAT THE HOSPITAL NOT SELL**” and substitute “**PROHIBIT THE HOSPITAL FROM SELLING**”; strike in their entirety lines 16 through 19, inclusive, and substitute:

“(3) **PROHIBIT THE CHARGING OF INTEREST ON BILLS INCURRED BY SELF-PAY PATIENTS BEFORE A COURT JUDGMENT IS OBTAINED;**”;

and in lines 20, 22, and 24, strike “(5)”, “(6)”, and “(7)”, respectively, and substitute “(4)”, “(5)”, and “(6)”, respectively.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 6, in line 11, after “review” insert “:

(1)”;

strike beginning with “collection” in line 12 down through “in” in line 13 and substitute “collection, including as elements within”; in lines 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, strike “(1)”, “(2)”, “(3)”, “(4)”, “(5)”, and “(6)”, respectively, and substitute “(i)”, “(ii)”, “(iv)”, “(v)”, “(vi)”, and “(vii)”, respectively; after line 16, insert:

“(iii) use of liens to enforce collection of a debt;”;

and in line 21, after “bills” insert:

“(2) the desirability of applying any uniform policies to private psychiatric and chronic care hospitals; and

(3) the desirability of altering the legal rate of interest on a judgment to collect a hospital debt”.

(Over)

On pages 6 and 7, strike beginning with the colon in line 32 on page 6 down through “That” in line 6 on page 7.