

House Bill 1420 (Hospitals – Financial Assistance Policies and Bill Collections)

First Reader, Proposed Amendments

AMENDMENT 1

On page 2, line 22, strike “EXCLUDING” and replace with “INCLUDING”

AMENDMENT 2

On page 2, line 32, strike “150%” and replace with “200%”

AMENDMENT 3

On page 4, line 7, after “HOSPITAL” add “OR OTHER HOSPITAL UNDER A MERGED ASSET HOSPITAL SYSTEM”

AMENDMENT 4

On page 7, line 1, after “POLICY”, add “UNLESS THE PATIENT’S ELIGIBILITY CAN BE DETERMINED PRESUMPTIVELY WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION.”

AMENDMENT 5

On page 9, line 7, after strike “;” after “HEALTH INSURANCE” and replace with “HOWEVER, A PATIENT’S REFUSAL TO BE SCREENED MAY NOT BE GROUNDS FOR DENYING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.”

AMENDMENT 6

On page 11, line 13, strike “AN OUTSIDE COLLECTION AGENCY” and replace with “DEBT COLLECTOR”

AMENDMENT 7

On page 11, line 14, after “BILL” insert “(2) THE PROCESS IN (1) SHALL INCLUDE THE OPTION FOR ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TO JOINTLY FILE THE COMPLAINT WITH THE COMMISSION AND THE HEALTH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY UNIT.”

AMENDMENT 8

On page 11, line 16, after “INSPECTION” insert “WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE COMPLAINANT’S NAME, ADDRESS, OR ANY OTHER PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.”

AMENDMENT 9

On page 13, line 1, strike "AN OUTSIDE COLLECTION AGENCY" and replace with "A DEBT COLLECTOR"

AMENDMENT 10

HEAU has received complaints from consumers that hospitals are querying a consumer's credit to determine eligibility without the consumer's authorization. Consumers should be notified about this. HEAU suggests adding "IF A HOSPITAL USES A CONSUMER REPORT, AS DEFINED IN IN SECTION 603(D) OF THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT, 15 U.S.C. § 1681A(D), OR ANY SCORE OR RATING BASED ON CONSUMER REPORT INFORMATION, THE FACILITY SHALL OBTAIN THE CONSUMER'S CONSENT FOR SUCH USE AND SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT."