



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB1420 - Summary Outline

Expands Hospital Financial Assistance Program (FAP) Eligibility

- Increases family income threshold for free medically necessary care from 150% to 200% of the federal poverty level
- Provides payment plan for uninsured patients with family income between 200-500% of federal poverty level

Increases Qualified Patient Participation in FAPs

- Provides presumptive eligibility for free medically necessary care for patients who receive:
 - Free and reduced-cost meals in schools
 - SNAP benefits
 - MD Energy Assistance Program benefits
 - Primary Adult Care Program benefits
 - Maryland social service program benefits
- Provides patients with oral notice about hospital FAPs before discharge
- Ensures that written hospital FAP notices and billing documents are readable and offered in the patient's preferred language

Strengthens Patient Rights

- Creates process for patients to request a reconsideration of denials for free or reduced-cost care
- Informs patients of their right to request written estimates of hospital bills
- Creates non-discriminatory procedure for hospitals to determine eligibility for FAPs
- Creates process for patients to file billing-related complaints with HSCRC against hospitals, medical creditors, or collection agencies
- Allows patients to take legal action against hospitals for violating provisions of HB1420

Increases Hospital FAP Transparency

- Requires each hospital to submit an annual report to the HSCRC that includes
 - Their FAP
 - Number of patients who applied for hospital FAPs
 - Number of patients who received free or reduced-cost care
 - Number of patients denied financial assistance broken down by race or ethnicity, gender, and zip code
 - Total cost of reduced-cost hospital services
- Publishes each hospital FAP report on the HSCRC website
- Requires HSCRC to compile and share each hospital FAP report into a Hospital Financial Assistance Report with:
 - The general public
 - The Senate Finance Committee
 - The House Government Operations Committee

Plans for Future Expansion of FAP Services

- Models the impact of future hospital FAP changes on
 - Amount of uncompensated care included in hospital rates
 - Total cost of care model