

HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

[s0662.hms]

BILL: CS/CS/SB 662, 2nd Eng.
SPONSOR: Senator Clary
SUBJECT: Hospitals/Hurricane Damage/Studies
PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Health Care
DATE: May 3, 2005

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – 404121 (body with title)

House Amendment 2 – 352175 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 amends s. 627.638, F.S., to provide that an insurance contract may not prohibit the payment of benefits directly to a licensed hospital, physician, and dentist who provide emergency care which they are required to provide under s. 395.1041, F.S. The amendment requires claims forms to provide for direct payment to the providers of emergency care, permits the insurer to require written assignment of benefits, and limits reimbursement to the amount the insurer would have paid without the assignment.

The title amendment changes the subject of the bill from “hospitals” to “health care” and gives notice of the amendment to s. 627.638, F.S.

House Amendment 2 requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA), in consultation with the Agency for Health Care Administration and appropriate legislative committees, to submit a report to the Legislature analyzing the impact of hospices on the delivery of care to terminally ill patients. The report is due no later than January 1, 2006, and it must address:

- A statistical analysis of hospice care in Florida from January 1, 1999 to June 30, 2005;
- An analysis of the scope of services provided by hospices compared to the minimum requirements of Medicare and Medicaid;
- An analysis of the penetration rates of hospice services by hospice service area, including the reason for regional monopolies;
- An analysis of the services provided by for-profit hospices and the quality of care provided in for-profit hospices in Florida and other states;
- An analysis of potential changes in the competitive marketplace that might be produced by the introduction of additional for-profit hospices;
- An analysis of the effect that the presence of for-profit hospices has had on service delivery and quality in other states;
- The projected costs to the Medicaid program that the introduction of additional for-profit hospices would produce; and
- Any other relevant information.

The amendment does not appropriate funds to cover the cost that OPPAGA would incur in conducting the study.

The title amendment provides notice that a study of hospices will be required of OPPAGA.

Taken by itself, this amendment introduces a subject—hospices—that is not included in the title of the bill which relates to hospitals. However, if House amendment 1 is adopted, the title will relate to health care and the subject of this amendment would be included.