



225790

CHAMBER ACTION

<u>Senate</u>	.	<u>House</u>
Comm: RCS	.	
4/15/2008	.	
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1 The Committee on Health Policy (Joyner) recommended the following  
 2 **amendment:**

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

5 Delete everything after the enacting clause  
6 and insert:

7 Section 1. Section 395.301, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
8 read:

9 395.301 Itemized patient bill; form and content prescribed  
10 by the agency; hospital staffing disclosure--

11 (1) A licensed facility not operated by the state shall  
 12 notify each patient during admission and at discharge of his or  
 13 her right to receive an itemized bill upon request. Within 7 days  
 14 following the patient's discharge or release from a licensed  
 15 facility not operated by the state, the licensed facility  
 16 providing the service shall, upon request, submit to the patient,  
 17 or to the patient's survivor or legal guardian as may be



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18 appropriate, an itemized statement detailing in language  
19 comprehensible to an ordinary layperson the specific nature of  
20 charges or expenses incurred by the patient, which in the initial  
21 billing shall contain a statement of specific services received  
22 and expenses incurred for such items of service, enumerating in  
23 detail the constituent components of the services received within  
24 each department of the licensed facility and including unit price  
25 data on rates charged by the licensed facility, as prescribed by  
26 the agency.

27 (2) (a) Each such statement submitted pursuant to this  
28 section:

29 1. May not include charges of hospital-based physicians if  
30 billed separately.

31 2. May not include any generalized category of expenses  
32 such as "other" or "miscellaneous" or similar categories.

33 3. Shall list drugs by brand or generic name and not refer  
34 to drug code numbers when referring to drugs of any sort.

35 4. Shall specifically identify therapy treatment as to the  
36 date, type, and length of treatment when therapy treatment is a  
37 part of the statement.

38 (b) Any person receiving a statement pursuant to this  
39 section shall be fully and accurately informed as to each charge  
40 and service provided by the institution preparing the statement.

41 (3) On each itemized statement submitted pursuant to  
42 subsection (1) there shall appear the words "A FOR-PROFIT (or  
43 NOT-FOR-PROFIT or PUBLIC) HOSPITAL (or AMBULATORY SURGICAL  
44 CENTER) LICENSED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA" or substantially  
45 similar words sufficient to identify clearly and plainly the  
46 ownership status of the licensed facility. Each itemized  
47 statement must prominently display the phone number of the



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48 | medical facility's patient liaison who is responsible for  
49 | expediting the resolution of any billing dispute between the  
50 | patient, or his or her representative, and the billing  
51 | department.

52 |         (4) An itemized bill shall be provided once to the  
53 | patient's physician at the physician's request, at no charge.

54 |         (5) In any billing for services subsequent to the initial  
55 | billing for such services, the patient, or the patient's survivor  
56 | or legal guardian, may elect, at his or her option, to receive a  
57 | copy of the detailed statement of specific services received and  
58 | expenses incurred for each such item of service as provided in  
59 | subsection (1).

60 |         (6) No physician, dentist, podiatric physician, or licensed  
61 | facility may add to the price charged by any third party except  
62 | for a service or handling charge representing a cost actually  
63 | incurred as an item of expense; however, the physician, dentist,  
64 | podiatric physician, or licensed facility is entitled to fair  
65 | compensation for all professional services rendered. The amount  
66 | of the service or handling charge, if any, shall be set forth  
67 | clearly in the bill to the patient.

68 |         (7) Each licensed facility not operated by the state shall  
69 | provide, prior to provision of any nonemergency medical services,  
70 | a written good faith estimate of reasonably anticipated charges  
71 | for the facility to treat the patient's condition upon written  
72 | request of a prospective patient. The estimate shall be provided  
73 | to the prospective patient within 7 business days after the  
74 | receipt of the request. The estimate may be the average charges  
75 | for that diagnosis related group or the average charges for that  
76 | procedure. Upon request, the facility shall notify the patient of  
77 | any revision to the good faith estimate. Such estimate shall not



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78 preclude the actual charges from exceeding the estimate. The  
79 facility shall place a notice in the reception area that such  
80 information is available. Failure to provide the estimate within  
81 the provisions established pursuant to this section shall result  
82 in a fine of \$500 for each instance of the facility's failure to  
83 provide the requested information.

84 (8) A licensed facility shall make available to a patient  
85 all records necessary for verification of the accuracy of the  
86 patient's bill within 30 business days after the request for such  
87 records. The verification information must be made available in  
88 the facility's offices. Such records shall be available to the  
89 patient prior to and after payment of the bill or claim. The  
90 facility may not charge the patient for making such verification  
91 records available; however, the facility may charge its usual fee  
92 for providing copies of records as specified in s. 395.3025.

93 (9) Each facility shall establish a method for reviewing  
94 and responding to questions from patients concerning the  
95 patient's itemized bill. Such response shall be provided within  
96 30 days after the date a question is received. If the patient is  
97 not satisfied with the response, the facility must provide the  
98 patient with the address of the agency to which the issue may be  
99 sent for review.

100 (10) Each licensed facility shall make available on its  
101 Internet website a link to the performance outcome and financial  
102 data that is published by the Agency for Health Care  
103 Administration pursuant to s. 408.05(3)(k). The facility shall  
104 place a notice in the reception area that the information is  
105 available electronically and the facility's Internet website  
106 address.



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107       (11) An acute care hospital shall provide to any person,  
 108 within 48 hours after receiving a written request, a report of  
 109 the daily staffing level of the direct care nursing staff,  
 110 registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified  
 111 nursing assistants in each patient care unit for each shift and  
 112 each day of the month preceding the request, the daily census by  
 113 patient care unit for each shift and each day of the month  
 114 preceding the request, and the projected schedule and anticipated  
 115 average daily census by patient care unit of the hospital for a  
 116 minimum period of 30 days following the date of the request.

117       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

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119 ===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

120 And the title is amended as follows:

121       Delete everything before the enacting clause  
122 and insert:

123                       A bill to be entitled

124       An act relating to the staffing of health care facilities;  
 125       amending s. 395.301, F.S.; requiring acute care hospitals  
 126       to make information concerning staffing levels at the  
 127       hospital available to the public upon request; providing  
 128       an effective date.