



101366

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
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The Committee on Health Policy (Flores) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Encounter fee reimbursement.—

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature that state funds used to pay for health care services be allocated in a responsible and reasonable manner that maximizes the availability of and access to services provided in public health facilities. Reportedly, patients often receive piecemeal services in county health departments on a per visit encounter fee reimbursement basis, and, after the first visit, are told



101366

13 that they will have to make multiple appointments for additional  
14 services that could be rendered in one visit, thus maximizing  
15 the amount of encounter fees paid to the health department.  
16 State-funded encounter fee reimbursement can range from \$100 to  
17 \$180 per visit. It is often more cost-effective and less  
18 intrusive for a patient to receive all treatment needed in one  
19 visit. The Legislature finds that, before authority is granted  
20 that reinforces the encounter reimbursement system, additional  
21 information is needed to determine the validity of and extent of  
22 abuse in this reimbursement method and develop an equitable  
23 solution to addressing the problem, if it is determined that a  
24 problem exists.

25 (2) The Agency for Health Care Administration, in  
26 consultation with the Department of Health, shall conduct a  
27 study of the efficacy of the encounter fee reimbursement method  
28 used in the county health departments for dental services. The  
29 study must examine encounter fee reimbursements for dental  
30 services provided in county health departments for the past 3  
31 fiscal years and include an analysis of the type, frequency, and  
32 scheduling of specified dental services provided during the  
33 specified timeframe and the amount of funds reimbursed to each  
34 county health department for these services. The study, which  
35 shall be presented to the President of the Senate and the  
36 Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2016, must  
37 include findings and a recommendation that provides a list of  
38 specific alternative reimbursement methods to be considered in  
39 lieu of the encounter fee reimbursement method.

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.  
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101366

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

43 And the title is amended as follows:

44 Delete everything before the enacting clause

45 and insert:

46 A bill to be entitled

47 An act relating to encounter reimbursement fees;  
48 providing legislative findings relating to the payment  
49 of encounter reimbursement fees in county health  
50 departments; requiring the Agency for Health Care  
51 Administration, in consultation with the Department of  
52 Health, to conduct a study of the encounter  
53 reimbursement method for the payment of dental  
54 services and to provide findings and recommendations  
55 to the Legislature by a certain date; providing an  
56 effective date.