

1 S.197

2 Introduced by Senator Mullin

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; hospital-owned practice; hospital-based outpatient fee

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to prohibit hospital-owned medical
7 practices from imposing a hospital-based outpatient charge for nonemergency
8 visits.

9 An act relating to hospital-based outpatient fees

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9425 is added to read:

12 § 9425. HOSPITAL-BASED OUTPATIENT CLAIMS

13 (a) As used in this section:

14 (1) "Hospital-based outpatient charge" means the facility fee for patient
15 visits to a hospital-owned medical practice.

16 (2) "Hospital-owned medical practice" means a medical practice which
17 provides primary or specialty outpatient care and which is owned or managed
18 by a hospital as part of a cooperative health care delivery network.

1 (3) “Cooperative health care delivery network” means a hospital-based
2 managed care system that provides a coordinated continuum of patient care
3 and multispecialty medical services to health plan enrollees.

4 (4) “Physician charge” means the fee for outpatient services provided by
5 a medical professional in a medical practice.

6 (b) A hospital-owned medical practice shall not impose a hospital-based
7 outpatient charge for nonemergency visits to primary and specialty care
8 medical professionals in addition to a physician charge.

9 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve a health plan from
10 complying with payment standards established by federal or state laws and
11 regulations.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This section shall take effect on July 1, 2012.