

1 H.306

2 Introduced by Representative Ancel of Calais

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; health insurance; fee schedules; transparency

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to make publicly available on the
7 website of the department of banking, insurance, securities, and health care
8 administration the fee schedules negotiated between health insurers and health
9 care providers.

10 An act relating to health insurance rate transparency

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

12 Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. chapter 107, subchapter 4A is added to read:

13 Subchapter 4A. Rate Transparency

14 § 4093. PURPOSE

15 The state of Vermont has a compelling interest in promoting cost
16 containment in health care for Vermont residents and enabling them to identify
17 the costs of and charges for health care services across providers.

18 § 4094. RATE TRANSPARENCY

19 (a) As used in this section:

1 (1) “Health care facility” means all persons or institutions, including
2 mobile facilities, whether public or private, proprietary or nonprofit, which
3 offer diagnosis, treatment, inpatient, or ambulatory care to two or more
4 unrelated persons, and the buildings in which those services are offered. The
5 term shall not apply to any institution operated by religious groups relying
6 solely on spiritual means through prayer for healing, but shall include:

7 (A) hospitals, including general hospitals, mental hospitals, chronic
8 disease facilities, birthing centers, maternity hospitals and psychiatric facilities,
9 including any hospital conducted, maintained, or operated by the state of
10 Vermont, or its subdivisions, or a duly authorized agency thereof;

11 (B) nursing homes, health maintenance organizations, home health
12 agencies, outpatient diagnostic or therapy programs, kidney disease treatment
13 centers, mental health agencies or centers, diagnostic imaging facilities,
14 independent diagnostic laboratories, cardiac catheterization laboratories,
15 radiation therapy facilities, or any inpatient or ambulatory surgical, diagnostic,
16 or treatment center.

17 (2) “Health care professional” means an individual, partnership,
18 corporation, facility, or institution licensed or certified or authorized by law to
19 provide professional health care services.

20 (3) “Health insurer” means any insurance company that provides health
21 insurance as defined in subdivision 3301(a)(2) of this title, nonprofit hospital

1 and medical service corporations, and health maintenance organizations. The
2 term does not apply to coverage for specified disease or other limited benefit
3 coverage.

4 (b) Health insurers doing business in Vermont shall file with the
5 department of banking, insurance, securities, and health care administration
6 annually, on or before September 1, the fee schedules they have negotiated
7 with each health care facility and health care professional under contract with
8 the insurer to provide services to Vermont residents.

9 (c) On or before October 1 of each year, the department of banking,
10 insurance, securities, and health care administration shall update the fee
11 schedules it receives pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and post the
12 updated information on the department's website to enable consumers to
13 compare the costs of health care services across providers.