

H.795

An act relating to increasing hospital price transparency

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

Sec. 1. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; PRICE TRANSPARENCY

DASHBOARD; PRIVATE PAY PRICING; REPORT

On or before February 1, 2021, the Green Mountain Care Board shall report to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance regarding its progress in developing and implementing a public, interactive, Internet-based price transparency dashboard for use by health care consumers, including the results of the Board's efforts to validate VHCURES data through comparison with hospital discharge data and with information from the health insurers and the status of the Board's work with the various payers to incorporate location information into VHCURES data. The Board shall also include in the report any information ascertained from the validation process regarding payments for services by patients without health insurance coverage, as well as the information the hospitals track relating to self-pay patients and the means by which hospitals may provide information to the Board in the future regarding actual amounts paid for services by patients without health insurance coverage.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9411 is added to read:

§ 9411. INTERACTIVE PRICE TRANSPARENCY DASHBOARD

(a) The Green Mountain Care Board shall develop and maintain a public, interactive, Internet-based price transparency dashboard that allows consumers to compare health care prices for certain health care services across the State. Using data from the Vermont Healthcare Claims Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) established pursuant to section 9410 of this title, the dashboard shall provide the range of actual allowed amounts for selected health care services, showing both the amount paid by the health insurer or other payer and the amount of the member's responsibility, and shall allow the consumer to sort the information by geographic location, by health care provider, by payer type, and by the specific health care procedure or health care service. The Board shall provide a link on the dashboard to the statewide comparative hospital quality report published by the Commissioner of Health pursuant to section 9405b of this title.

(b) The Board shall update the information in the interactive price transparency dashboard at least annually.

Sec. 3. INTERACTIVE PRICE TRANSPARENCY DASHBOARD;

DEMONSTRATION; RECOMMENDATIONS; REPORT

(a) On or before February 1, 2022, the Green Mountain Care Board shall provide a demonstration of the interactive price transparency dashboard

developed pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9411 to the House Committees on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance.

(b) In addition to the demonstration required by subsection (a) of this section, on or before February 1, 2022, the Green Mountain Care Board shall provide recommendations to the House Committee on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance regarding ways in which the price transparency dashboard may be expanded to provide information on health care quality, on actual amounts charged to patients without health insurance coverage after the application of any relevant charity care policies or other discounts, and on other claims and payment data not currently collected by VHCURES.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Secs. 1 (Green Mountain Care Board; price transparency dashboard; private pay pricing; report), 3 (interactive price transparency dashboard; demonstration; recommendations; report), and this section shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 9411) shall take effect on July 1, 2020, with the interactive price transparency dashboard becoming available for use by the public as soon as it is operational, but in no event later than February 15, 2022.