

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16

17
18
19
20

H.795

Introduced by Representatives Rogers of Waterville, Christensen of
Weathersfield, Cordes of Lincoln, Donahue of Northfield,
Houghton of Essex, Page of Newport City, and Smith of Derby

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; health care administration; Green Mountain Care Board;
hospitals; price transparency

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require
hospitals to report to the Green Mountain Care Board their actual charges for
health care services delivered to patients without health insurance or other
health coverage. It would direct the Green Mountain Care Board to use
information from Vermont's all-payer claims database and the information
from the hospitals on their private-pay patient charges to make available to the
public information on the average charge for each health care service at each
Vermont hospital for insured patients and for private-pay patients.

An act relating to increasing hospital price transparency

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

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9410 is amended to read:

§ 9410. HEALTH CARE DATABASE

1 (a)(1) The Board shall establish and maintain a unified health care database
2 to enable the Board to carry out its duties under this chapter, chapter 220 of
3 this title, and Title 8, including:

4 (A) determining the capacity and distribution of existing resources;

5 (B) identifying health care needs and informing health care policy;

6 (C) evaluating the effectiveness of intervention programs on
7 improving patient outcomes;

8 (D) comparing costs between various treatment settings and
9 approaches;

10 (E) providing information to consumers and purchasers of health
11 care; and

12 (F) improving the quality and affordability of patient health care and
13 health care coverage.

14 (2) The Board shall use information from the database and the
15 information on hospitals' private-pay patient charges provided to the Board
16 pursuant to subdivision (c)(2) of this section to make available to the public on
17 the Board's website information regarding the average actual amounts charged
18 for each health care service or bundle of services at each Vermont hospital for
19 insured patients and for private-pay patients. The Board shall update the
20 information on its website at least annually.

1 (b) The database shall contain unique patient and provider identifiers and a
2 uniform coding system, and shall reflect all health care utilization, costs, and
3 resources in this State, and health care utilization and costs for services
4 provided to Vermont residents in another state.

5 (c)~~(1)~~ Health insurers, health care providers, health care facilities, and
6 governmental agencies shall file reports, data, schedules, statistics, or other
7 information determined by the Board to be necessary to carry out the purposes
8 of this section. Such information may include:

9 ~~(1)~~(A) health insurance claims and enrollment information used by
10 health insurers;

11 ~~(2)~~(B) information relating to hospitals filed under subchapter 7 of this
12 chapter (hospital budget reviews); and

13 ~~(3)~~(C) any other information relating to health care costs, prices, quality,
14 utilization, or resources required by the Board to be filed.

15 (2) Each hospital shall file with the Board its actual charges for health
16 care services delivered to patients without health insurance or other health
17 coverage, not including any reduced charge amounts for patients who qualify
18 for the hospital's charity care program.

19 (d) The Board may by rule establish the types of information to be filed
20 under this section, and the time and place and the manner in which such
21 information shall be filed.

1

* * *

2

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

3

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.