

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 31 entitled “An act relating to requiring hospitals to provide certain
4 financial information to patients and prohibiting surprise billing for emergency
5 medical services” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
6 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
7 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

8 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1852 is amended to read:

9 § 1852. PATIENTS’ BILL OF RIGHTS; ADOPTION

10 (a) The General Assembly hereby adopts the “Bill of Rights for Hospital
11 Patients” as follows:

12 * * *

13 (12) The patient has the right to receive an itemized, detailed, and
14 understandable explanation of charges, regardless of the source of payment,
15 and to be provided with information about:

16 (A) health care prices;

17 (B) financial assistance; and

18 (C) billing and collections practices.

19 * * *

1 Sec. 2. PRICE TRANSPARENCY; BILLING PROCESSES; REPORT

2 (a) Building on its efforts pursuant to 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 54,
3 Sec. 21, the Green Mountain Care Board, in consultation with interested
4 stakeholders, shall examine health care price transparency initiatives in other
5 states to identify possible options for making applicable health care pricing
6 information readily available to consumers of health care services in this State
7 to help inform their health care decision making.

8 (b) The Green Mountain Care Board, in consultation with interested
9 stakeholders, shall consider and provide recommendations regarding potential
10 financial procedures for health care services that would coordinate processes
11 between hospitals and payers without requiring the patient’s involvement and
12 would provide patients who receive hospital services with a single,
13 comprehensive bill that reflects the patient’s entire, actual financial obligation.

14 (c) On or before November 15, 2019, the Green Mountain Care Board shall
15 provide its findings and recommendations pursuant to subsections (a) and (b)
16 of this section to the House Committee on Health Care, the Senate Committees
17 on Health and Welfare and on Finance, and the Health Reform Oversight
18 Committee.

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

1 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act
2 relating to informed health care financial decision making”

3 (Committee vote: _____)

4

5

Senator _____

6

FOR THE COMMITTEE