

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Health Care to which was referred Senate Bill No. 31  
3 entitled “An act relating to informed health care financial decision making”  
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
5 House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after  
6 the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 42 is amended to read:

8 CHAPTER 42. BILL OF RIGHTS FOR HOSPITAL PATIENTS AND  
9 PATIENT ACCESS TO INFORMATION

10 Subchapter 1. Bill of Rights for Hospital Patients

11 § 1851. DEFINITIONS

12 As used in this ~~chapter~~ subchapter:

13 (1) “Hospital” means a ~~general~~ hospital required to be licensed under  
14 ~~18 V.S.A. chapter 43~~ of this title.

15 (2) “Patient” means a person admitted to a hospital on an inpatient basis.

16 § 1852. PATIENTS’ BILL OF RIGHTS; ADOPTION

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18 (12) The patient has the right to receive an itemized, detailed, and  
19 understandable explanation of charges regardless of the source of payment and  
20 to be provided with information about financial assistance and billing and  
21 collections practices.

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Subchapter 2. Access to Information

§ 1854. PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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§ 1855. AMBULATORY SURGICAL PATIENTS; EXPLANATION OF CHARGES

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Ambulatory surgical center” has the same meaning as in section 9432 of this title.

(2) “Hospital” means a hospital required to be licensed under chapter 43 of this title.

(b) A patient receiving outpatient surgical services or an outpatient procedure at an ambulatory surgical center or hospital shall receive an itemized, detailed, and understandable explanation of charges regardless of the source of payment and shall be provided with information about the ambulatory surgical center’s or hospital’s financial assistance and billing and collections practices.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 9375(b) is amended to read:

(b) The Board shall have the following duties:

\* \* \*

1           (14) Collect and review data from each psychiatric hospital licensed  
2           pursuant to chapter 43 of this title, which may include data regarding a  
3           psychiatric hospital’s scope of services, volume, utilization, discharges, payer  
4           mix, quality, coordination with other aspects of the health care system, and  
5           financial condition. The Board’s processes shall be appropriate to psychiatric  
6           hospitals’ scale and their role in Vermont’s health care system, and the Board  
7           shall consider ways in which psychiatric hospitals can be integrated into  
8           systemwide payment and delivery system reform.

9           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE