

1 **DRAFT amendment for HHC discussion**

2 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

3 The Committee on Health Care to which was referred House Bill No. 795  
4 entitled “An act relating to increasing hospital price transparency” respectfully  
5 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be  
6 amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu  
7 thereof the following:

8 Sec. 1. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; PRICE TRANSPARENCY  
9 DASHBOARD; **PRIVATE PAY PRICING;** REPORT

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

1 **by which hospitals may provide information to the Board in the future**  
2 **regarding actual amounts paid for services by patients without health**  
3 **insurance coverage.**

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

5 § 9411. INTERACTIVE PRICE TRANSPARENCY DASHBOARD

6 (a) The Green Mountain Care Board shall develop and maintain a public,  
7 interactive, Internet-based price transparency dashboard that allows consumers  
8 to compare health care prices for certain health care services across the State.

9 Using data from the Vermont Healthcare Claims Uniform Reporting and  
10 Evaluation System (VHCURES) established pursuant to section 9410 of this  
11 title, the dashboard shall provide the range of actual allowed amounts for  
12 selected health care services, showing both the amount paid by the health  
13 insurer or other payer and the amount of the member’s responsibility, and shall  
14 allow the consumer to sort the information by geographic location, by health  
15 care provider, by payer type, and by the specific health care procedure or  
16 health care service. **The Board shall provide a link on the dashboard to the**

17 **statewide comparative hospital quality report published by the**  
18 **Commissioner of Health pursuant to section 9405b of this title.**

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

1 Sec. 3. INTERACTIVE PRICE TRANSPARENCY DASHBOARD;  
2 DEMONSTRATION; **RECOMMENDATIONS; REPORT**

3 **(a)** On or before February 1, 2022, the Green Mountain Care Board shall  
4 provide a demonstration of the interactive price transparency dashboard  
5 developed pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9411 to the House Committees on Health  
6 Care and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance.

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

16 **Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 9406 is added to read:**

17 **§ 9406. PRIVATE-PAY PATIENTS AT HOSPITALS AND HOSPITAL-**

18 **AFFILIATED PRACTICES**

19 **(a) As used in this section, “private-pay rate” means the actual amount**  
20 **that is charged to a patient without health insurance coverage for the**  
21 **service or services provided.**

1 ~~(b) The private-pay rate for a health care service provided at a hospital~~  
2 ~~or hospital-affiliated medical practice shall not exceed the maximum~~  
3 ~~allowed amount that commercial health insurance plans reimburse the~~  
4 ~~hospital or practice for the same service.~~

5 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

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

10 (b) Sec. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 9411) shall take effect on July 1, 2020, with the  
11 interactive price transparency dashboard becoming available for use by the  
12 public ~~not later than January 1, 2022~~ as soon as it is operational, but in no  
13 event later than February 15, 2022.

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

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE