

S.31

An act relating to informed health care financial decision making

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

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

§ 1852. PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS; ADOPTION

(a) The General Assembly hereby adopts the "Bill of Rights for Hospital Patients" as follows:

* * *

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

(A) health care prices;

(B) financial assistance; and

(C) billing and collections practices.

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Sec. 2. PRICE TRANSPARENCY; BILLING PROCESSES; REPORT

(a) The Green Mountain Care Board, in consultation with interested stakeholders, shall examine health care price transparency initiatives in other states to identify possible options for making applicable health care pricing information readily available to consumers of health care services in this State to help inform their health care decision making.

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

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

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.