

H.848

Introduced by Representatives North of Ferrisburgh, Burr of Cabot, Critchlow
of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Lueders of Lincoln,
McFaun of Barre Town, Powers of Waterford, and Tagliavia of
Corinth

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; hospitals; hospital networks; outpatient services; facility fees

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit

hospitals and hospital networks from charging a facility fee for certain

categories of outpatient services and services delivered through telehealth. It

would also require hospitals to provide written notice to patients before

delivering services that will incur facility fees.

An act relating to limiting facility fees for certain outpatient services and
telehealth

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

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1856 is added to read:

§ 1856. NOTICE OF AND LIMITATIONS ON FACILITY FEES

(a) As used in this section:

1 (1) “Facility fee” means any fee charged or billed by a hospital or
2 hospital network for outpatient services provided by a hospital-owned or
3 hospital-affiliated facility that is:

4 (A) intended to compensate the hospital or hospital network for its
5 operational expenses; and

6 (B) separate and distinct from a professional fee.

7 (2) “Health care provider” has the same meaning as in section 9402 of
8 this title.

9 (3) “Hospital” has the same meaning as in section 9451 of this title.

10 (4) “Hospital network” has the same meaning as in section 9451 of this
11 title.

12 (5) “Hospital outpatient department” means a unit of a hospital, whether
13 on or off the main hospital campus, that is owned by or otherwise affiliated
14 with the hospital and is designed to treat patients who do not need to be
15 admitted to the hospital.

16 (6) “Professional fee” means any fee charged or billed by a health care
17 provider for professional medical services provided in a hospital-owned or
18 hospital-affiliated facility.

19 (7) “Telehealth” has the same meaning as in 26 V.S.A. § 3052.

20 (b) A hospital or hospital network shall not charge or collect a facility fee
21 for:

1 (1) health care services delivered in a hospital outpatient department, or
2 any other outpatient hospital services, that use a Current Procedural
3 Terminology (CPT) evaluation and management code or assessment and
4 management code; or

5 (2) health care services delivered through telehealth.

6 (c) A hospital shall provide a patient with notice in writing of any
7 applicable facility fees prior to delivering any health care service that will
8 result in the charge or collection of a facility fee.

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.