

1 HB560
2 151251-1
3 By Representative Greeson
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 04-APR-13

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, there is no requirement
9 that a hospital, clinic, physician, dentist, or
10 other health care provider, prior to performing
11 non-emergency health care services, furnishes the
12 patient with an estimate of the medical costs.

13 This bill would require health care
14 providers to furnish a patient, prospective
15 patient, his or her physician, or authorized agent
16 with a written estimate of the prospective costs
17 for non-emergency health care services upon
18 request. This bill would require health care
19 providers to itemize and explain in the medical
20 bill any costs that exceed the written estimate.

21 This bill would also authorize the
22 Department of Public Health to promulgate rules.
23

24 A BILL
25 TO BE ENTITLED
26 AN ACT
27

1 Relating to health care costs; to require health
2 care providers to furnish a patient or his or her physician
3 with a written estimate of the prospective costs for
4 non-emergency health care services upon request; to require
5 the health care provider to itemize and explain in the medical
6 bill any costs that exceed the written estimate; and to
7 authorize the Department of Public Health to adopt rules.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

9 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
10 as the "Medical Cost Disclosure Act."

11 Section 2. As used in this act, the following words
12 shall have the following meanings:

13 (1) HEALTH CARE PROVIDER. Any physician, dentist,
14 hospital, health center, clinic, professional corporation, or
15 other person which is licensed or otherwise authorized in this
16 state to furnish health care services.

17 (2) HEALTH CARE SERVICES. Any health care service
18 that is not an emergency service, including medical or dental
19 care or hospitalization, incident to the furnishing of such
20 care or hospitalization, as well as the furnishing to any
21 patient of any and all other services for the purpose of
22 preventing, alleviating, curing, or healing human illness,
23 injury, or physical disability.

24 Section 3. (a) Prior to performing non-emergency
25 health care services and upon the request of a patient, a
26 prospective patient, his or her attending physician, or any
27 authorized agent of the patient, each health care provider

1 shall provide a written itemized estimate of the total cost of
2 the health care services. If the amount of the bill for the
3 health care service exceeds the estimate, the bill shall
4 separately identify and explain the increased charge.

5 (b) The Department of Public Health may promulgate
6 rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

7 Section 4. This act shall become effective on the
8 first day of the third month following its passage and
9 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.