

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND FOURTEEN

S.P. 698 - L.D. 1760

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Study
Transparency, Costs and Accountability of Health Care System Financing**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1718, as repealed and replaced by PL 2009, c. 71, §3, is amended to read:

§1718. Consumer information

Each hospital or ambulatory surgical center licensed under chapter 405 shall, upon request by an individual, provide the average charge for any inpatient service or outpatient procedure provided by the licensee. If a single medical encounter will involve services or procedures to be rendered by one or more 3rd-party health care entities as defined in section 1718-B, subsection 1, paragraph B, the hospital or ambulatory surgical center shall identify each 3rd-party health care entity to enable the individual to seek an estimate of the total price of services or procedures to be rendered directly by each health care entity to that individual. For emergency services, the hospital must provide the average charges for facility and physician services according to the level of emergency services provided by the hospital and based on the time and intensity of services provided. The hospital or ambulatory surgical center shall prominently display a notice informing individuals of an individual's authority to request information on the average charges described in this paragraph from the hospital or ambulatory surgical center.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1718-C is enacted to read:

§1718-C. Estimate of the total price of a single medical encounter for an uninsured patient

Upon the request of an uninsured patient, a health care entity, as defined in section 1718-B, subsection 1, paragraph B, shall provide within a reasonable time of the request an estimate of the total price of medical services to be rendered directly by that health care entity during a single medical encounter. If the health care entity is unable to provide an accurate estimate of the total price of a specific medical service because the amount of

the medical service to be consumed during the medical encounter is unknown in advance, the health care entity shall provide a brief description of the basis for determining the total price of that particular medical service. If a single medical encounter will involve medical services to be rendered by one or more 3rd-party health care entities, the health care entity shall identify each 3rd-party health care entity to enable the uninsured patient to seek an estimate of the total price of medical services to be rendered directly by each health care entity to that patient. When providing an estimate as required by this section, a health care entity shall also notify the uninsured patient of any charity care policy adopted by the health care entity.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §8704, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2011, c. 494, §8, is further amended to read:

7. Annual report. The board shall prepare and submit an annual report on the operation of the organization and the Maine Health Data Processing Center as authorized in Title 10, section 681, including any activity contracted for by the organization or contracted services provided by the center, with resulting net earnings, as well as on collaborative activities with other health data collection and management organizations and stakeholder groups on their efforts to improve consumer access to health care quality and price information and price transparency initiatives, to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial services matters no later than February 1st of each year. The report must include an annual accounting of all revenue received and expenditures incurred in the previous year and all revenue and expenditures planned for the next year. The report must include a list of persons or entities that requested data from the organization in the preceding year with a brief summary of the stated purpose of the request.