

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 490

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to itemized billing for health care services and supplies provided by health care providers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subtitle J to read as follows:

SUBTITLE J. PAYMENT FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

CHAPTER 185. HEALTH CARE BILLING

Sec. 185.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Debt collection" has the meaning assigned by Section 392.001, Finance Code.

(2) "Health care provider" means an individual or facility licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to provide health care services or supplies in this state in the ordinary course of business or professional practice, including a physician or a hospital.

(3) "Health care service" means a service a health care provider provides to an individual to diagnose, prevent, treat, alleviate, cure, or heal a human health condition, illness, injury, or disease.

Sec. 185.002. ITEMIZED BILL REQUIRED. (a) A health care provider that requests payment from a patient for a health care service or related supply provided to the patient shall submit with the request a written, itemized bill of charges for all health care

1 services and supplies provided to the patient during the patient's
2 visit to the provider.

3 (b) The itemized bill must include:

4 (1) the amount the health care provider agrees to
5 accept as full payment for each health care service and supply that
6 provider provided to the patient;

7 (2) a plain language description of each distinct
8 health care service or supply; and

9 (3) if reimbursement is sought from a third party, any
10 billing code submitted to the third party and the amounts billed to
11 and paid by that third party.

12 (c) A health care provider may issue the itemized bill
13 electronically, including through a patient portal on the
14 provider's Internet website.

15 (d) A patient is entitled to obtain from the health care
16 provider an itemized bill on request at any time after the itemized
17 bill is initially issued under Subsection (a).

18 (e) A health care provider may not pursue debt collection
19 against a patient for a provided health care service or supply
20 unless the provider has complied with this section.

21 Sec. 185.003. DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY LICENSING AUTHORITY.
22 The appropriate licensing authority may take disciplinary action
23 against a health care provider that violates this chapter as if the
24 provider violated an applicable licensing law.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.