

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 500  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 14, 2005; February 24, 2005,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs;  
1-4 April 6, 2005, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 6, 2005,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 500 By: Ellis

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to prices charged for the provision of health care  
1-11 services.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Section 552.001, Insurance Code, as effective  
1-14 April 1, 2005, is amended to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 552.001. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. (a) This chapter  
1-16 does not apply to the provision of a health care service to a:

1-17 (1) Medicaid or Medicare patient[+] or a patient who  
1-18 is covered by a federal, state, or local government-sponsored  
1-19 indigent health care program;

1-20 (2) financially or medically indigent person who  
1-21 qualifies for indigent health care services based on:

1-22 (A) a sliding fee scale; or

1-23 (B) a written charity care policy established by  
1-24 a health care provider; or

1-25 (3) person who is not covered by a health insurance  
1-26 policy or other health benefit plan that provides benefits for the  
1-27 services and qualifies for services for the uninsured based on a  
1-28 written policy established by a health care provider.

1-29 (b) This chapter does not permit the establishment of health  
1-30 care provider policies or contracts that violate any other state or  
1-31 federal law.

1-32 (c) This chapter does not prohibit a health care provider  
1-33 from entering into a contract to provide services covered by a  
1-34 health insurance policy or other health benefit plan with:

1-35 (1) the issuer of the health insurance policy or other  
1-36 health benefit plan; or

1-37 (2) a preferred provider organization that contracts  
1-38 with the issuer of the health insurance policy or other health  
1-39 benefit plan.

1-40 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
1-41 to charges for health care services provided on or after the  
1-42 effective date of this Act. Charges for health care services  
1-43 provided before the effective date of this Act are governed by the  
1-44 law in effect immediately before that date, and that law is  
1-45 continued in effect for that purpose.

1-46 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-47 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-48 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-49 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-50 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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