

House Bill 4084

Sponsored by Representative GREENLICK; Representatives KENY-GUYER, LIVELY, MALSTROM, MCLAIN, PILUSO, POWER, REARDON, SALINAS, SANCHEZ (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires hospitals, no later than January 1, 2019, to have charity care policy written in plain language and provided upon admission and with every billing or notice of amount owed to hospital by patient. Requires Oregon Health Authority to make available uniform charity care application created by hospital trade association.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to charity care provided by hospitals; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2018 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 441.015 to 441.063.

SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section, "charity care" has the meaning given that term in ORS 442.200.

(2) A hospital must have a written charity care policy that is approved by the Oregon Health Authority explaining how a patient may receive free care or discounted prices for care provided in the hospital. The authority may approve a charity care policy only if the policy meets the plain language standards described in ORS 180.545.

(3) A hospital's charity care policy must be prominently posted on the hospital's website, provided orally and in writing to each patient or patient's representative at the time of admission and included with every billing and every letter or notice to a patient or a patient's representative that requests payment of an amount that is owed to the hospital by the patient or patient's representative.

(4) The authority shall make available to hospitals and the general public a uniform application for charity care created by a trade association representing hospitals.

SECTION 3. A hospital must have a written charity care policy in place that complies with section 2 of this 2018 Act no later than January 1, 2019.

SECTION 4. This 2018 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2018 Act takes effect on its passage.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.