

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 6189

C 60 L 06

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Requiring hospitals to provide patients certain billing information.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senator Keiser).

Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care
House Committee on Health Care

Background: Hospitals in Washington are subject to regulation by the state Department of Health, although the regulations do not address pricing policies or procedures. There is concern that hospital billing procedures are not patient friendly and that receiving multiple bills for a single hospital stay, often filled with procedure codes and other specialized terminology, leaves many who receive treatment frustrated and confused about the services they received, and to whom any charges are to be paid.

Summary: The Legislature's intent is to encourage hospitals to design the implementation of health information technologies to provide patients with understandable billing information.

Hospitals are required to furnish patients with a list of those professionals that commonly provide care at the hospital and from whom the patient may get a bill, along with appropriate contact information. Hospitals owned or operated by a health maintenance organization are exempt.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	42	1
House	96	1

Effective: June 7, 2006