

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6496

As of January 25, 2010

Title: An act relating to estimates for health care fees and charges.

Brief Description: Exempting ambulances and aid vehicles from the requirement to post notices about estimates for health care fees and charges.

Sponsors: Senator McCaslin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 1/27/10.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Rhoda Donkin (786-7465)

Background: Legislation passed in 2009 requires all fees and charges for health care services by health care providers and licensed facilities be disclosed at the request of the patient. Providers and facilities may refer a patient to the patient's insurer for specific information on the insurer's charges and fees, any cost-sharing responsibilities required of the patient, and the network status of ancillary providers who may or may not share the same network status as the provider or facility. Providers and facilities must post a sign in patient registration areas stating that patients may ask about the estimated charges of the health services.

Summary of Bill: Ambulances and aid vehicles are exempt from disclosure requirements in statute regarding posting fees and charges to patients or providing them upon request.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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