

Approved May 2, 1978.

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CHAPTER 360

(House Bill 899)

AN ACT concerning

Hospital and Nursing Home Billing Procedures

FOR the purpose of requiring hospitals and nursing homes to furnish an itemized bill on demand following payment; and specifying a penalty for failing to do so within a certain time.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 43 - Health  
Section 556B  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1971 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 43 - Health

556B.

(A) All hospitals as defined within this article, with the exception of those operated by the State of Maryland or any of its political subdivisions, shall present to each patient upon demand within 30 days after discharge, an itemized account, or itemized bill briefly but clearly describing each item and the amount charged. All nursing homes as defined within this article shall present to each patient or his representative upon demand within 30 days from rendering of service an itemized account or itemized bill briefly but clearly describing each item and the amount charged. No nursing home shall be required to furnish the itemized statement to any patient more than once in any 30-day period. The hospital or nursing home may not demand or receive final payment of, or recover for, money due until an itemized account or itemized bill is presented. The provisions of this section shall not apply to nursing homes that contract with their patients to provide care for an all inclusive preestablished fee.

(B) ALL HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES COVERED BY THIS SECTION SHALL PRESENT TO EACH PATIENT OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE UPON DEMAND WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER PAYMENT OF ANY CHARGES, AN ITEMIZED ACCOUNT OR ITEMIZED BILL BRIEFLY BUT CLEARLY DESCRIBING EACH ITEM AND THE AMOUNT CHARGED. FAILURE TO