

~~10-210.~~

~~(a) The Commission may review costs and rates and make any investigation that the Commission considers necessary to assure each purchaser of health care facility services that:~~

~~(1) The total costs of all hospital services offered by or through a facility are reasonable;~~

~~(2) The aggregate rates of the facility are related reasonably to the aggregate costs of the facility; and~~

~~(3) The rates are set equitably among all purchasers or classes of purchasers without undue discrimination or preference.~~

~~(b) (1) To carry out its powers under subsection (a) of this section, the Commission may review and approve or disapprove the reasonableness of any rate that a facility sets or requests.~~

~~(2) A facility shall charge for services only at a rate set in accordance with this subtitle.~~

~~(3) In determining the reasonableness of rates, the Commission may take into account objective standards of efficiency and effectiveness.~~

~~(c) To promote the most efficient and effective use of health care facility services and, if it is in the public interest and consistent with this subtitle, the Commission may promote and approve alternate methods of rate determination and payment that are of an experimental nature.~~

~~(d) (1) THE ASSESSMENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION:~~

~~(i) IS REQUIRED IN LIEU OF THE MANDATORY 4% DIFFERENTIAL ON HOSPITAL RATES IMPOSED UNDER THE FORMER SUBSTANTIAL, AVAILABLE, AND AFFORDABLE COVERAGE (SAAC) PROGRAM; AND~~

~~(ii) IS INTENDED TO DECREASE THE COST OF UNCOMPENSATED CARE THAT IS CURRENTLY BORNE BY THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE THROUGH HOSPITAL RATES.~~

~~(2) (i) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ASSESS EACH ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO 1% OF THE HOSPITAL'S GROSS ANNUAL REVENUE.~~

~~(ii) THE ASSESSMENT SHALL BE COLLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION IN CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS.~~

~~(iii) EACH ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL ASSESSED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL REMIT THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE ASSESSMENT TO THE MARYLAND HEALTH INSURANCE AND ASSISTANCE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER~~