

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'16 JUL 21 P3:16

SENATE

S. No. 842

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
REQUIRING HEALTHCARE FACILITIES TO PROVIDE A PRICE LIST OF ITS
HEALTHCARE SERVICES INCLUDING INCIDENTAL EXPENSES AND MEDICAL
SUPPLIES THAT CAN BE CHARGED IN THE MEDICAL BILL

Explanatory Note

Health is a basic human right as provided for in Section 15, Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, which states that: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

The exorbitant cost of health care services requires that, for better appreciation, details of the medical bill are made available to patients. For some healthcare facilities, patients invariably get billed for the slightest expense items while being treated in their facility that patients resort to home medication or other form of medication that might pose a danger to their health.

By providing a complete and reliable price list, to include all incidental expenses for room and amenities, meals, medicines, and use of medical equipment and technology, it would enable patients to compare costs and freely decide where best to obtain the services or supplies that they need. Being informed of the prices in advance would also help the patients in estimating their medical bill when they are admitted to the healthcare facility. It would also safeguard patients against misleading and unfair sales acts and practices in the healthcare facility.

The people deserve meaningful information about the price of healthcare services. Through the passage of this bill, healthcare facilities will be committed to share information that will help people make important decisions about their health, especially for people who lack financial resource and this would eventually achieve the national goal to have a dependable and effective healthcare delivery.

Healthcare facilities that would fail to comply with and would violate the provisions of this measure and its implementing rules and regulations will be subjected to penalty of a fine and/or suspension of license to practice profession within a limited period of time.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

RALPH G. RECTO

/s/

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Healthcare Services Price
2 Disclosure Act of 2016".

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the
4 right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State shall enforce
5 a compulsory posting of the price list of healthcare services, including incidental expenses and
6 medical supplies that can be charged in the medical bill, to enable the public to obtain accurate
7 and adequate information that would facilitate and guide them in making a conscious choice of
8 healthcare facility.

9 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

10 (a) "Diagnostic and laboratory clinic" refers to a health facility for X-ray, CT scans,
11 blood chemistry exams, histopathology and immunopathology, hematology, urine
12 analysis, parasitology and bacteriology test, serology, blood banking and other
13 diagnostic examinations that are needed for the diagnosis and/or treatment of an
14 illness or injury.

15 (b) "Healthcare services" refer to the services for the diagnosis, treatment and other
16 forms of healthcare of individuals suffering from deformity, disease, illness or injury,
17 or in need of surgical, obstetrical, medical or nursing care that are offered, available
18 and provided by the hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, diagnostic and laboratory
19 clinics and other medical clinics.

20 The term healthcare services shall also include dental services to perform oral
21 examination, cleaning, permanent and temporary filling, extractions and gum treatments,
22 restoration, replacement or repositioning of teeth, or alteration of the alveolar or
23 periodontium process of the maxilla and the mandible that are necessary for the diagnosis
24 and/or treatment of a dental illness or injury,

- 1 (c) "Healthcare facilities" refers to hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, diagnostic and
2 laboratory clinics, medical clinics and/or facilities which provide healthcare services,
3 as defined herein, whether or not there is an operating room equipment and installed
4 bassinets or beds for the use of patients in the management of deformities, diseases,
5 injuries, abnormal physical and mental conditions, and maternity cases.
- 6 (d) "Incidental expenses" refer to the cost of other services provided by the healthcare
7 facility incidental and in connection with the healthcare services provided, such as,
8 but not limited to, charges for room and amenities, meals, drugs and medicines, and
9 payments for use of medical equipment and technology.
- 10 (e) "Medical bill" refers to the costs of healthcare services rendered by the healthcare
11 facility including professional fees, incidental expenses and medical supplies, among
12 others, charged to the patient.
- 13 (f) "Medical equipment and technology" refer to the equipment designed to aid in
14 providing healthcare services.
- 15 (g) "Medical supplies" refer to all healthcare materials and articles used for providing
16 healthcare services and can be charged in the medical bill.
- 17 (h) "Patient" refers to a person seeking admission or who is admitted and availed of
18 healthcare services in a healthcare facility.
- 19 (i) "Room and amenities" refer to an occupancy room or a ward room where a patient is
20 admitted for healthcare services, including detailed list of its amenities.

21 **Sec. 4. Price List of Healthcare Services and Incidental Expenses Including Medical**
22 **Supplies Offered and Charged by a Healthcare Facility.** - Healthcare facilities shall provide a
23 price list of its healthcare services, incidental expenses and medical supplies that can be charged
24 in the medical bill available to any patient or patient's representative, so that the patient or
25 patient's representative may adequately exercise the option to choose a healthcare facility. The
26 price list shall likewise be easily accessible to the general public and without need of any further
27 inquiry by posting the price list in their respective website and in a conspicuous place within the
28 premises of the healthcare facility.

29 All medical bills shall include a list and itemization of all healthcare services, incidental
30 expenses and medical supplies availed or used by the patient with their corresponding prices
31 charged to the patient.

32 **Sec. 5. Price List of Healthcare Services, Incidental Expenses and Medical Supplies**
33 **Binding on Healthcare Facility.** - The price list of healthcare services, incidental expenses and
34 medical supplies shall be binding on the healthcare facility upon the admission of the patient.
35 Any increase in the price of healthcare services, incidental expenses and medical supplies shall
36 take effect only after proper posting as required in this Act: *Provided*, That the increase shall not
37 affect patients admitted prior to the posting of increase in price.

1 **SEC. 6. Penalties.** – (a) Any person who shall violate the provisions of this Act or its
2 implementing rules and regulations shall be subject to a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos
3 (P5,000.00) but not more than Twenty-five thousand pesos (P25,000.00) per instance of violation
4 without prejudice to administrative sanctions such as suspension or cancellation of license to
5 practice profession for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days.

6 (b) Any juridical person which violates the provisions of this Act shall suffer the penalty
7 of a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Fifty thousand
8 pesos (P50,000.00) per instance of violation and suspension or revocation of license to operate
9 such healthcare facility for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days: *Provided*, That its officers
10 directly responsible for the violation shall suffer the penalty of a fine of not less than Five
11 thousand pesos (P5, 000.00) but not more than Twenty five thousand pesos (P25,000.00) per
12 instance of violation and suspension or revocation of license to practice profession for a period
13 not exceeding sixty (60) days: *Provided, further*, That if the guilty party is an alien, he shall be
14 *ipso facto* deported after payment of fine without need of further proceedings.

15 The Secretary of Health shall have the authority to impose the administrative fines and
16 sanctions provided herein including suspension or revocation of license to operate such
17 healthcare facility or recommend suspension of license to practice profession to the Professional
18 Regulation Commission as the case may be for the violation of this Act.

19 **SEC. 7. Implementing Agency.** - The Department of Health (DOH) shall enforce the
20 provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

21 **Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90) days from the
22 effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local
23 Government, shall issue the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this
24 Act.

25 **Sec. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
26 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof that are not affected thereby shall
27 continue to be in full force and effect.

28 **Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations
29 and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
30 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

31 **Sec. 11. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
32 either in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,