

DISCOUNTS ON MEDICAL HEALTH CARE

2007 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Larry B. Wiley

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill enacts a new part in the Medical Assistance Act of the Health Code which limits the amount a health care provider may charge an uninsured individual.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms; and
- beginning July 1, 2007, limits the amount that a health care provider may charge an uninsured individual for health care services.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

26-18-601, Utah Code Annotated 1953**26-18-602**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*Section 1. Section **26-18-601** is enacted to read:**Part 6. Billing Practices for Uninsured Individuals**

26-18-601. Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(1) "Health care provider" includes:

(a) health care facilities licensed under Chapter 21, Health Care Facility Licensing and Inspection Act; and

(b) the following professionals licensed under Title 58, Occupations and Professions:

(i) a dentist;

(ii) a physician;

(iii) an osteopathic physician;

(iv) a physician's assistant; and

(v) an advanced practice registered nurse.

(2) "Uninsured person" means any individual or group of individuals who are not enrolled in or do not receive benefits directly or indirectly from:

(a) health care insurance as defined in Section 31A-1-301;

(b) Medicare;

(c) the state Medicaid program; or

(d) any other state sponsored or funded medical assistance program.

Section 2. Section **26-18-602** is enacted to read:

26-18-602. Health care billing practices.

(1) (a) Beginning July 1, 2007, a health care provider may not require reimbursement from an uninsured patient in an amount greater than:

(i) 15% above the Medicare established reimbursement for the same coded service; and

(ii) the interest rates permitted by Subsection (3).

(b) The limitation on reimbursement in Subsection (1)(a) applies in any legal action for collection against the uninsured individual.

(2) Health care providers shall inform uninsured patients of the limit on reimbursement imposed by this section at the time services are given and when sending a billing statement.

(3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), interest may not be imposed on an uninsured individual's unpaid account:

(i) for 30 days if the unpaid amount is less than \$100;

(ii) for 60 days if the unpaid amount is between \$100 and \$250; and

59 (iii) for 90 days if the unpaid amount is over \$250.
60 (b) The prohibition against charging interest in Subsection (3)(a) does not apply if an
61 uninsured patient does not make reasonable efforts to make partial payments.

Legislative Review Note
as of 1-8-07 11:52 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

H.B. 136 - Discounts on Medical Health Care

Fiscal Note

2007 General Session

State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Enactment of this bill could reduce the payments for health care services by uninsured individuals depending on the services obtained and the Medicare reimbursement rate as compared with the actual charges.

Health care providers impacted by this bill could lose revenue due to a reduced fee schedule for uninsured individuals. There may be some additional expense of administering the provisions of this bill by health care providers.

1/30/2007, 11:42:37 AM, Lead Analyst: Greer, W.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst