

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 951

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S.P. 303

In Senate, March 9, 2021

### **An Act To Improve Transparency of Medical Billing**

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Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.

Cosponsored by Senator: STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, MORRIS of Turner.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1718-C**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 560, §2, is repealed and the  
3 following enacted in its place:

4 **§1718-C. Estimate of total price of a single medical encounter for a patient; services**  
5 **in medical offices or laboratories**

6 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context indicates otherwise, the  
7 following terms have the following meanings.

8 A. "Health care" has the same meaning as in section 1711-C, subsection 1, paragraph  
9 C.

10 B. "Health care entity" has the same meaning as in section 1718-B, subsection 1,  
11 paragraph B.

12 C. "Health care practitioner" has the same meaning as in section 1711-C, subsection  
13 1, paragraph F.

14 D. "Medical office" means a location used by health care practitioners to examine and  
15 consult with patients. "Medical office" does not include a facility licensed under  
16 chapter 405, except to the extent the facility provides services to patients that do not  
17 require hospitalization.

18 **2. Uninsured patients.** Upon the request of an uninsured patient, a health care entity  
19 shall provide within a reasonable time of the request an estimate of the total price of medical  
20 services to be rendered directly by that health care entity during a single medical encounter.  
21 If the health care entity is unable to provide an accurate estimate of the total price of a  
22 specific medical service because the amount of the medical service to be consumed during  
23 the medical encounter is unknown in advance, the health care entity shall provide a brief  
24 description of the basis for determining the total price of that particular medical service. If  
25 a single medical encounter will involve medical services to be rendered by one or more  
26 3rd-party health care entities, the health care entity shall identify each 3rd-party health care  
27 entity to enable the uninsured patient to seek an estimate of the total price of medical  
28 services to be rendered directly by each health care entity to that patient. When providing  
29 an estimate as required by this subsection, a health care entity shall also notify the uninsured  
30 patient of any charity care policy adopted by the health care entity.

31 **3. All patients; medical offices and laboratories.** Notwithstanding subsection 2,  
32 prior to the provision of health care, including laboratory services, in a medical office or  
33 by a laboratory, a health care practitioner or laboratory shall inform a patient of the cost of  
34 such care or services. Health care and laboratory costs include but are not limited to  
35 professional service fees, facility fees and any other fees or costs associated with the  
36 provision of the health care or laboratory service to the patient.

37 **Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1718-G** is enacted to read:

38 **§1718-G. Prohibition on late medical bills**

39 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
40 following terms have the following meanings.

41 A. "Collection action" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 11002, subsection  
42 1-A.

