

## HB 2394 -- Transparency of Health Care Services

Sponsor: Ervin

This bill establishes guidelines for transparency in pricing and quality of health care services. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Specifies that a patient or consumer who has requested an estimated cost of health care services will not be required to pay for the services until an estimate has been provided. This provision does not apply to emergency services;
- (2) Requires health care providers to issue a disclaimer regarding possible differences between the estimated and the actual billed costs of services;
- (3) Requires health care providers to provide patients or consumers with quality of care data. Failure to comply will be basis for licensure sanction;
- (4) Requires all contracts between health care providers and insurers to include quality of care data disclosure requirements;
- (5) Specifies the requirements that insurers must use in programs to evaluate and compare the performance and efficiency of health care providers; and
- (6) Prohibits a provider from declining to enter into a contract with an insurer due to quality of care data disclosure requirements or programs to evaluate and compare performance and efficiency.

Requirements are established for a person who sells or distributes quality of care data that is not included in the quality measures used by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This provision does not apply to articles or research studies that are published in peer-reviewed academic journals. The Department of Health and Senior Services is required to investigate complaints of alleged violations and is authorized to impose a penalty of up to \$1,000.

Alleged violations by health insurers will be investigated and enforced by the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration.