

HB 232 -- HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

SPONSOR: Helms

This bill requires a health care provider, beginning January 1, 2020, to provide public access to a price list of the services and products the provider offers. Each service and product listed must include an industry standard name and code, layperson description, and the amount that will be charged to a patient if all charges are paid in full without a third party paying and portion of the charges.

Beginning July 1, 2019, upon request from a patient, a health care provider must provide an estimate of the cost that will be charged to a patient if all charges are paid in full without a third party paying any portion of the charges. The bill removes a provision that would allow a health care provider to satisfy this requirement by providing the patient a link to the provider's website with an estimate of the costs.

The bill removes specific language that must be included with the cost estimate, and instead allows the health care provider to determine what language to include with the estimate.

Beginning July 1, 2019, upon request from an insured, an insurance company must provide an estimate of the cost within three business days.

This bill is similar to HB 2498 (2018).