CHAMBER ACTION

The Committee on Insurance recommends the following:

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Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to health care; amending s. 381.026, F.S.; requiring certain licensed facilities to provide certain financial information on its website; amending s. 395.301, F.S.; requiring certain licensed facilities to provide prospective patients with certain estimates of charges for services; requiring such facilities to provide patients with certain bill verification information; providing for a fine for failure to provide such information; providing charge limitations; requiring such facilities to establish a patient question review and response methodology; providing requirements; requiring certain licensed facilities to provide to certain financial information on its website; providing an exception for specified rural hospitals; requiring a report; amending s. 408.061, F.S.; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to require health care facilities, health care providers, and health insurers to submit certain information; providing requirements; requiring the agency to adopt certain risk

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adjustment methodologies or software; requiring the agency to adopt certain rules; requiring certain information to be certified; amending s. 408.062, F.S.; requiring the agency to conduct certain health care costs and access research, analyses, and studies; expanding the scope of such studies to include collection of pharmacy retail price data, use of emergency departments, physician information, and Internet patient charge information availability; requiring publication of information collected on the Internet; requiring a report; requiring the agency to conduct additional data-based studies and make recommendations to the Legislature; requiring the agency to develop and implement a strategy to adopt and use electronic health records; authorizing the agency to develop rules to protect electronic records confidentiality; requiring a report to the Governor and Legislature; amending s. 408.05, F.S.; requiring the agency to develop a plan to make performance outcome and financial data available to consumers for health care services comparison purposes; requiring submittal of the plan to the Governor and Legislature; requiring the agency to update the plan; requiring the agency to make the plan available electronically; providing plan requirements; amending s. 409.9066, F.S.; requiring the agency to provide certain information relating to the Medicare prescription discount program; creating s. 465.0244, F.S.; requiring each pharmacy to make available on its Internet website a link to certain performance outcome and

financial data of the Agency for Health Care
Administration and a notice of the availability of such
information; amending s. 627.6499, F.S.; requiring each
health insurer to make available on its Internet website a
link to certain performance outcome and financial data of
the Agency for Health Care Administration and a notice in
policies of the availability of such information; amending
s. 641.54, F.S.; requiring health maintenance
organizations to make certain insurance financial
information available to subscribers; requiring health
maintenance organizations to make available on its
Internet website a link to certain performance outcome and
financial data of the Agency for Health Care
Administration and a notice in policies of the
availability of such information; authorizing rule
adoption; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 381.026, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.026 Florida Patient's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.--

- (4) RIGHTS OF PATIENTS.--Each health care facility or provider shall observe the following standards:
 - (c) Financial information and disclosure. --
- 1. A patient has the right to be given, upon request, by the responsible provider, his or her designee, or a

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representative of the health care facility full information and necessary counseling on the availability of known financial resources for the patient's health care.

- 2. A health care provider or a health care facility shall, upon request, disclose to each patient who is eligible for Medicare, in advance of treatment, whether the health care provider or the health care facility in which the patient is receiving medical services accepts assignment under Medicare reimbursement as payment in full for medical services and treatment rendered in the health care provider's office or health care facility.
- 3. A health care provider or a health care facility shall, upon request, furnish a patient, prior to provision of medical services, a reasonable estimate of charges for such services. Such reasonable estimate shall not preclude the health care provider or health care facility from exceeding the estimate or making additional charges based on changes in the patient's condition or treatment needs.
- 4. Each licensed facility not operated by the state shall make available to the public on its Internet website or by other electronic means a description of, and a link to, the performance outcome and financial data that is published by the agency pursuant to s. 408.05. The facility shall place a notice in reception areas that such information is available electronically and provide the Internet address. The licensed facility may indicate that the pricing information is based on a compilation of charges for the average patient and that each patient's bill may vary from the average, depending upon the

severity of illness and individual resources consumed. The licensed facility may also indicate that the price of service is negotiable for eligible patients based upon the patient's ability to pay.

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- 5.4. A patient has the right to receive a copy of an itemized bill upon request. A patient has a right to be given an explanation of charges upon request.
- Section 2. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 395.301, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (7), (8), (9), (10), and (11) are added to said section, to read:

 395.301 Itemized patient bill; form and content prescribed by the agency.--
- A licensed facility not operated by the state shall notify each patient during admission and at discharge of his or her right to receive an itemized bill upon request. Within 7 days following the patient's discharge or release from a licensed facility not operated by the state, or within 7 days after the earliest date at which the loss or expense from the service may be determined, the licensed facility providing the service shall, upon request, submit to the patient, or to the patient's survivor or legal guardian as may be appropriate, an itemized statement detailing in language comprehensible to an ordinary layperson the specific nature of charges or expenses incurred by the patient, which in the initial billing shall contain a statement of specific services received and expenses incurred for such items of service, enumerating in detail the constituent components of the services received within each department of the licensed facility and including unit price

data on rates charged by the licensed facility, as prescribed by the agency.

(2)(a) Each such statement submitted pursuant to this section:

- $\frac{1.(a)}{a}$ May not include charges of hospital-based physicians if billed separately.
- $\underline{2.}$ (b) May not include any generalized category of expenses such as "other" or "miscellaneous" or similar categories.
- 3.(c) Shall list drugs by brand or generic name and not refer to drug code numbers when referring to drugs of any sort.
- $\frac{4.(d)}{d}$ Shall specifically identify therapy treatment as to the date, type, and length of treatment when therapy treatment is a part of the statement.
- (b) Any person receiving a statement pursuant to this section shall be fully and accurately informed as to each charge and service provided by the institution preparing the statement.
- subsection (1), there shall appear the words "A FOR-PROFIT (or NOT-FOR-PROFIT or PUBLIC) HOSPITAL (or AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER) LICENSED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA" or substantially similar words sufficient to identify clearly and plainly the ownership status of the licensed facility. Each itemized statement must prominently display the phone number of the medical facility's patient liaison who is responsible for expediting the resolution of any billing dispute between the patient, or his or her representative, and the billing department.

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(7) Each licensed facility not operated by the state shall provide, prior to provision of any nonemergency medical services, a written good faith estimate of reasonably anticipated charges for the facility to treat the patient's condition upon written request of a prospective patient. The estimate shall be provided to the prospective patient within 7 business days of the receipt of the request. The estimate may be the average charges for that diagnosis related group or the average charges for that procedure. Upon request, the facility shall notify the patient of any revision to the good faith estimate. Such estimate shall not preclude the actual charges from exceeding the estimate. The facility shall place a notice in reception areas that such information is available. Failure to provide the estimate within the provisions established pursuant to this section shall result in a fine of \$500 for each instance of the facility's failure to provide the requested information.

(8) A licensed facility shall make available to a patient all records necessary for verification of the accuracy of the patient's bill within 30 business days after the request for such records. The verification information must be made available in the facility's offices. Such records shall be available to the patient prior to and after payment of the bill or claim. The facility may not charge the patient for making such verification records available; however, the facility may charge its usual fee for providing copies of records as specified in s. 395.3025.

(9) Each facility shall establish a method for reviewing and responding to questions from patients concerning the patient's itemized bill. Such response shall be provided within 30 days after the date a question is received. If the patient is not satisfied with the response, the facility must provide the patient with the address of the agency to which the issue may be sent for review.

- (10) Each licensed facility shall make available on its

 Internet website a link to the performance outcome and financial data that is published by the Agency for Health Care

 Administration pursuant to s. 408.05. The facility shall place a notice in the reception area that the information is available electronically and the Internet address.
- (11) Each rural hospital, as defined in s. 395.602, which has fewer than 50 beds is exempt from subsection (10). The agency shall evaluate the most cost-efficient method for collecting and reporting data for these qualifying rural hospitals and shall, by December 1, 2005, submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 408.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 408.061 Data collection; uniform systems of financial reporting; information relating to physician charges; confidential information; immunity.--
- (1) The agency <u>shall</u> <u>may</u> require the submission by health care facilities, health care providers, and health insurers of data necessary to carry out the agency's duties. Specifications

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for data to be collected under this section shall be developed by the agency with the assistance of technical advisory panels including representatives of affected entities, consumers, purchasers, and such other interested parties as may be determined by the agency.

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Data to be submitted by health care facilities, including the facilities as defined in chapter 395, shall may include, but are not limited to: case-mix data, patient admission and or discharge data, data on hospital-acquired infections as specified by rule, data on complications as specified by rule, data on readmissions as specified by rule, with patient and provider-specific identifiers included, actual charge data by diagnostic groups, financial data, accounting data, operating expenses, expenses incurred for rendering services to patients who cannot or do not pay, interest charges, depreciation expenses based on the expected useful life of the property and equipment involved, and demographic data. Hospital emergency data shall include the number of the patients treated in the emergency department of a licensed hospital reported by patient acuity level. The agency shall adopt nationally recognized risk adjustment methodologies or software consistent with the standards of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for all data submitted as required by this section. Data may be obtained from documents such as, but not limited to: leases, contracts, debt instruments, itemized patient bills, medical record abstracts, and related diagnostic information. Reported data elements shall be reported electronically in accordance with applicable department rules. Data submitted

shall be certified by the chief executive officer or an appropriate and duly authorized representative or employee of the licensed facility that the information is accurate.

- (b) Data to be submitted by health care providers may include, but are not limited to: Medicare and Medicaid participation, types of services offered to patients, amount of revenue and expenses of the health care provider, and such other data which are reasonably necessary to study utilization patterns. Data submitted shall be certified as true and accurate by the health care provider or by an appropriate and duly authorized representative or employee of the health care provider.
- (c) Data to be submitted by health insurers may include, but are not limited to: claims, premium, administration, and financial information. Data submitted shall be certified as by the appropriate and duly authorized representative or employee of the insurer that the information submitted is true and accurate.
- (d) Data required to be submitted by health care facilities, health care providers, or health insurers shall not include specific provider contract reimbursement information. However, such specific provider reimbursement data shall be reasonably available for onsite inspection by the agency as is necessary to carry out the agency's regulatory duties. Any such data obtained by the agency as a result of onsite inspections may not be used by the state for purposes of direct provider contracting and are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

(e) A requirement to submit data shall be adopted by rule if the submission of data is being required of all members of any type of health care facility, health care provider, or health insurer. Rules are not required, however, for the submission of data for a special study mandated by the Legislature or when information is being requested for a single health care facility, health care provider, or health insurer.

Section 4. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 408.062, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (5) is added to said section, to read:

408.062 Research, analyses, studies, and reports.--

- (1) The agency shall have the authority to conduct research, analyses, and studies relating to health care costs and access to and quality of health care services as access and quality are affected by changes in health care costs. Such research, analyses, and studies shall include, but not be limited to, research and analysis relating to:
- (a) The financial status of any health care facility or facilities subject to the provisions of this chapter.
- (b) The impact of uncompensated charity care on health care facilities and health care providers.
 - (c) The state's role in assisting to fund indigent care.
- (d) <u>In conjunction with the Office of Insurance</u>

 <u>Regulation</u>, the availability and affordability of health insurance for small businesses.
- (e) Total health care expenditures in the state according to the sources of payment and the type of expenditure.

(f) The quality of health services, using techniques such as small area analysis, severity adjustments, and risk-adjusted mortality rates.

- (g) The development of physician <u>information</u> payment systems which are capable of <u>providing data for health care</u> consumers, taking into account the amount of resources consumed, <u>including licensed facilities as defined in chapter 395</u>, and the outcomes produced in the delivery of care.
- (h) The collection of a statistically valid sample of data on the retail prices charged by pharmacies for the 50 most frequently prescribed medicines from any pharmacy licensed by this state as a special study authorized by the Legislature to be performed by the agency quarterly. If a drug is available generically, price data shall be reported for the generic drug and price data of a brand name drug for which the generic drug is the equivalent shall be reported. The agency shall make available on its Internet website for each pharmacy, no later than October 1, 2005, drug prices for a 30-day supply at a standard dose. The data collected shall be reported for each drug by pharmacy and by metropolitan statistical area or region and updated quarterly The impact of subacute admissions on hospital revenues and expenses for purposes of calculating adjusted admissions as defined in s. 408.07.
- (i) The use of emergency department services by patient acuity level and the implication of increasing hospital cost by providing nonurgent care in emergency departments. The agency shall submit an annual report based on this monitoring and assessment to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the

329 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the substantive legislative committees with the first report due January 1, 330 331 2006. 332 The making available on its Internet website no later 333 than October 1, 2004, and in a hard copy format upon request, of 334 patient charge, volumes, length of stay, and performance outcome 335 indicators collected from health care facilities pursuant to s. 336 408.061 for specific medical conditions, surgeries, and procedures provided in inpatient and outpatient facilities as 337 338 determined by the agency. In making the determination of 339 specific medical conditions, surgeries, and procedures to 340 include, the agency shall consider such factors as volume, 341 severity of the illness, urgency of admission, individual and 342 societal costs, and whether the condition is acute or chronic. 343 Performance outcome indicators shall be risk adjusted or severity adjusted, as applicable, using nationally recognized 344 345 risk adjustment methodologies or software consistent with the 346 standards of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and 347 as selected by the agency. The Internet website shall also 348 provide an interactive search that allows consumers to view and 349 compare the information for specific facilities, a map that 350 allows consumers to select a county or region, definitions of 351 all of the data, descriptions of each procedure, and an 352 explanation about why the data may differ from facility to 353 facility. Such public data shall be updated quarterly. The 354 agency shall submit an annual status report on the collection of 355 data and publication of performance outcome indicators to the 356 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House

of Representatives, and the substantive legislative committees with the first status report due January 1, 2005.

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- The agency shall may conduct data-based studies and evaluations and make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor concerning exemptions, the effectiveness of limitations of referrals, restrictions on investment interests and compensation arrangements, and the effectiveness of public disclosure. Such analysis shall may include, but need not be limited to, utilization of services, cost of care, quality of care, and access to care. The agency may require the submission of data necessary to carry out this duty, which may include, but need not be limited to, data concerning ownership, Medicare and Medicaid, charity care, types of services offered to patients, revenues and expenses, patient-encounter data, and other data reasonably necessary to study utilization patterns and the impact of health care provider ownership interests in healthcare-related entities on the cost, quality, and accessibility of health care.
- (b) The agency may collect such data from any health facility or licensed health care provider as a special study.
- (5) The agency shall develop and implement a strategy for the adoption and use of electronic health records. The agency may develop rules to facilitate the functionality and protect the confidentiality of electronic health records. The agency shall report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on legislative recommendations to protect the confidentiality of electronic health records.

Section 5. Paragraph (1) is added to subsection (3) of section 408.05, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of said section is amended, to read:

408.05 State Center for Health Statistics.--

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- (3) COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM. -- In order to produce comparable and uniform health information and statistics, the agency shall perform the following functions:
- (1) Develop, in conjunction with the State Comprehensive Health Information System Advisory Council, and implement a long-range plan for making available performance outcome and financial data that will allow consumers to compare health care services. The performance outcomes and financial data the agency must make available shall include, but are not limited to, pharmaceuticals, physicians, health care facilities, and health plans and managed care entities. The agency shall submit the initial plan to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by March 1, 2005, and shall update the plan and report on the status of its implementation annually thereafter. The agency shall also make the plan and status report available to the public on its Internet website. As part of the plan, the agency shall identify the process and timeframes for implementation, any barriers to implementation, and recommendations of changes in the law that may be enacted by the Legislature to eliminate the barriers. As preliminary elements of the plan, the agency shall:
- 1. Make available performance outcome and patient charge data collected from health care facilities pursuant to s.

 408.061. The agency shall determine which conditions and

procedures, performance outcomes, and patient charge data to disclose based upon input from the council. When determining which conditions and procedures are to be disclosed, the council and the agency shall consider variation in costs, variation in outcomes, and magnitude of variations and other relevant information. When determining which performance outcomes to disclose, the agency:

- a. Shall consider such factors as volume of cases, average patient charges, average length of stay, complication rates, mortality rates, and infection rates, among other factors, which shall be adjusted for case mix and severity, if applicable.
- b. May consider such additional measures that are adopted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Studies, National Quality Forum, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, or a similar national entity that establishes standards to measure the performance of health care providers, or by other states.

When determining which patient charge data to disclose, the agency shall consider such measures as average charge, average net revenue per adjusted patient day, average cost per adjusted patient day, and average cost per admission, among other measures.

2. Make available performance measures, benefit design, and premium cost data from health plans licensed pursuant to chapter 627 or chapter 641. The agency shall determine which performance outcome and member and subscriber cost data to

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disclose, based upon input from the council. When determining which data to disclose, the agency shall consider information that may be required by either individual or group purchasers to assess the value of the product, which may include membership satisfaction, quality of care, current enrollment or membership, coverage areas, accreditation status, premium costs, plan costs, premium increases, range of benefits, copayments and deductibles, accuracy and speed of claims payment, credentials of physicians, number of providers, names of network providers, and hospitals in the network. Health plans shall make available to the agency any such data or information that is not currently reported to the agency or the office.

Determine the method and format for public disclosure of data reported pursuant to this paragraph. The agency shall make its determination based upon input from the Comprehensive Health Information System Advisory Council. At a minimum, the data shall be made available on the agency's Internet website in a manner that allows consumers to conduct an interactive search that allows them to view and compare the information for specific providers. The Internet website must include such additional information as is determined necessary to ensure that the website enhances informed decisionmaking among consumers and health care purchasers, which shall include, at a minimum, appropriate quidance on how to use the data and an explanation of why the data may vary from provider to provider. The data specified in subparagraph 1. shall be released no later than March 1, 2005. The data specified in subparagraph 2. shall be released no later than March 1, 2006.

(8) STATE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL.--

(a) There is established in the agency the State Comprehensive Health Information System Advisory Council to assist the center in reviewing the comprehensive health information system and to recommend improvements for such system. The council shall consist of the following members:

- 1. An employee of the Executive Office of the Governor, to be appointed by the Governor.
- 2. An employee of the <u>Office of Insurance Regulation</u>

 Department of Financial Services, to be appointed by the Chief Financial Officer.
- 3. An employee of the Department of Education, to be appointed by the Commissioner of Education.
- 4. Ten persons, to be appointed by the Secretary of Health Care Administration, representing other state and local agencies, state universities, the Florida Association of Business/Health Coalitions, local health councils, professional health-care-related associations, consumers, and purchasers.
- Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 409.9066, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 409.9066 Medicare prescription discount program .--
- (3) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall publish, on a free website available to the public, the most recent average wholesale prices for the 200 drugs most frequently dispensed to the elderly and, to the extent possible, shall provide a mechanism that consumers may use to calculate the retail price and the price that should be paid after the

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discount required in subsection (1) is applied. The agency shall provide retail information by geographic area and retail information by provider within geographical areas.

Section 7. Section 465.0244, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

465.0244 Information disclosure.--Every pharmacy shall make available on its Internet website a link to the financial data that is published by the Agency for Health Care Administration pursuant to ss. 408.06 and 409.9066 and shall place in the area where customers receive filled prescriptions notice that such information is available electronically and the Internet address.

Section 8. Section 627.6499, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.6499 Reporting by insurers and third-party administrators.--

- (1) The office may require any insurer, third-party administrator, or service company to report any information reasonably required to assist the board in assessing insurers as required by this act.
- (2) Each health insurance issuer shall make available on its Internet website a link to the performance outcome and financial data that is published by the Agency for Health Care Administration pursuant to s. 408.05, and shall include in every policy delivered or issued for delivery to any person in the state or any materials provided as required by s. 627.64725, notice that such information is available electronically and the Internet address.

Section 9. Subsections (6) and (7) are added to section 641.54, Florida Statutes, to read:

641.54 Information disclosure.--

- (6) Each health maintenance organization shall make available to its subscribers the estimated copay, coinsurance percentage, or deductible, whichever is applicable, for any covered services, the status of the subscriber's maximum annual out-of-pocket payments for a covered individual or family, and the status of the subscriber's maximum lifetime benefit. Such estimate shall not preclude the actual copay, coinsurance percentage, or deductible, whichever is applicable, from exceeding the estimate.
- (7) Each health maintenance organization shall make available on its Internet website a link to the performance outcome and financial data that is published by the Agency for Health Care Administration pursuant to s. 408.05, and shall include in every policy delivered or issued for delivery to any person in the state or any materials provided as required by s. 627.64725, notice that such information is available electronically and the Internet address.

Section 10. The Agency for Health Care Administration shall adopt all rules necessary to implement this act no later than January 1, 2005.

Section 11. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.