

CS for SB 848

THE STATE SENATE  
Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Committee Substitute for  
Senate Bill No. 848

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 848 - By: ADELSON of the Senate and BALKMAN and GLENN of the House.

[ public health and safety - Hospital Discount for Qualified Self-Pay Patients Act - codification - effective date ]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-723.1 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Hospital Discount for Qualified Self-Pay Patients Act".

B. As used in this act, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Ambulatory Surgical Center" shall have the same meaning as in Section 2657 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. "Hospital" shall have the same meaning as in Section 1-701 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

3. "Qualified self-pay patient" means a resident who has established a domicile in an Oklahoma county and has no public or private source of insurance payment for medical services and would be expected to pay a hospital's or an ambulatory surgical center's

1 billed charges. The term does not include a patient who fails to  
2 provide income and asset information to determine if the patient is  
3 eligible for a discount program.

4 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-723.2 of Title 63, unless  
6 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 A. Each hospital and ambulatory surgical center in this state  
8 shall establish a discount program for hospital and ambulatory  
9 surgical center charges for qualified self-pay patients who have  
10 household incomes of up to four hundred percent (400%) of the  
11 federal poverty guidelines. This discount program shall not be  
12 required for patients who are eligible for or enrolled in private or  
13 public insurance plans providing hospital and ambulatory surgical  
14 center coverage, including indemnity plans.

15 B. While a hospital or ambulatory surgical center may set  
16 uniform prices for its services, products and fees, qualified self-  
17 pay patients shall be eligible for minimum discounts from the  
18 hospital or ambulatory surgical center so that the payment due to  
19 the hospital or ambulatory surgical center charge after the discount  
20 shall not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the average Medicare  
21 inpatient or respective outpatient reimbursement rate to that  
22 hospital or ambulatory surgical center based upon the facility's  
23 most recently filed Medicare cost report.

1 C. Each hospital and ambulatory surgical center shall develop  
2 and implement the discounts and establish the methodologies  
3 developed for the following:

4 1. Identifying patients who may be eligible for a discount,  
5 notifying them of the availability of the discount program, and  
6 providing appropriate information, including application forms, for  
7 the discount;

8 2. Identifying public or private insurance or other payment  
9 mechanisms for which the patient might be eligible;

10 3. Determining the discount;

11 4. Notifying patients of their qualification for a discount  
12 under this program. All billings for hospital or ambulatory  
13 surgical center charges and all collection letters and notices for  
14 services rendered by the hospital or ambulatory surgical center to  
15 qualified self-pay patients shall contain a statement of this  
16 policy; and

17 5. Prominently posting in various places in such facility,  
18 including in the intake and processing offices and billing offices,  
19 a statement of this policy.

20 D. Hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers shall report  
21 annually to the State Department of Health on the Joint Cooperative  
22 Hospital Survey the number of patients who have requested discounts,  
23 received discounts, and the total discounts provided under this act.

1           SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2005.  
2   COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES, dated  
3   2-10-05 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.