

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 SENATE BILL 1581

By: Wilson

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to public health and safety; stating
8 legislative intent; limiting certain charges by
9 emergency departments; providing for certain
10 exception; authorizing certain fine; providing for
11 noncodification; providing for codification; and
12 providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
15 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

16 It is the intent of the Legislature that:

17 1. Charges for procedures provided in emergency departments
18 should not significantly exceed the charges for the same procedure
19 provided in a non-emergent setting;

20 2. The cost of maintaining an emergency department should be
21 shared by those who desire to have an emergency department
22 available; and

23 3. The cost for maintaining an emergency department should not
24 be the sole responsibility of the users since the emergency
department provides value to the entire community.

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-700 of Title 63, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. An emergency department shall not charge more than the
5 average charged by non-emergent health care providers in the
6 community as determined by the State Department of Health for
7 primary care services rendered in the emergency department.

8 B. An emergency department may be exempt from the requirements
9 provided in subsection A of this section if the emergency department
10 offers an annual household membership fee of not more than One
11 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). The membership fee shall be considered
12 payment in full for emergent services for a member. The membership
13 fee shall not prohibit the emergency department from collecting
14 payments from third parties for services rendered.

15 C. The State Department of Health may fine health care
16 facilities that violate the provisions of this section an amount
17 equal to two times the excess charged above the average charged by
18 non-emergent health care providers in the community for each
19 violation.

20 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2012.

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