

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2644**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Huff**

February 22, 2008

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An act to add Section 127601 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to medical billing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2644, as introduced, Huff. Medical billing.

Existing law requires the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, after consultation with the Insurance Commissioner, the Director of the Department of Managed Health Care, the State Director of Health Care Services, and the Director of Industrial Relations, to adopt a California uniform billing form format for professional health care services and a California uniform billing form format for institutional provider services. The format for professional health care services is the format developed by the National Uniform Claim Form Committee.

This bill would require any health care provider that directly bills a patient for professional health care services, including hospital services, to provide in plain English, as defined, a description of the medical procedure or services for which a patient is billed.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 127601 is added to the Health and Safety
- 2 Code, to read:

1 127601. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any health  
2 care provider that directly bills a patient for professional health  
3 care services, including hospital services, shall provide in plain  
4 English a description of the medical procedure or services for  
5 which the patient is billed. For purposes of this section, “plain  
6 English” means the inclusion of at least one, but not more than  
7 five, lay terms.

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