**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**H. 4622**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Sessions, Pope, Guffey, Mitchell, King and Hart

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Introduced in the House on January 9, 2024

Introduced in the Senate on April 10, 2024

Last Amended on April 9, 2024

Currently residing in the House

Summary: Medical Billing

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

11/16/2023 House Prefiled

11/16/2023 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs**

1/9/2024 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 102](h:\hj\20240109.docx))

1/9/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 102](h:\hj\20240109.docx))

3/27/2024 House Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 25](h:\hj\20240327.docx))

3/28/2024 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor:
Mitchell, King, Hart

4/9/2024 House Amended ([House Journal‑page 59](h:\hj\20240409.docx))

4/9/2024 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 59](h:\hj\20240409.docx))

4/9/2024 House Roll call Yeas-107 Nays-0 ([House Journal‑page 60](h:\hj\20240409.docx))

4/10/2024 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 13](h:\hj\20240410.docx))

4/10/2024 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 4](h:\sj\20240410.docx))

4/10/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 4](h:\sj\20240410.docx))

4/11/2024 Scrivener's error corrected

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4622&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[11/16/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4622_20231116.docx)

[03/27/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4622_20240327.docx)

[04/09/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4622_20240409.docx)

[04/11/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4622_20240411.docx)

Amended

April 09, 2024

H. 4622

Introduced by Reps. Sessions, Pope, Guffey, Mitchell, King and Hart

S. Printed 04/09/24--H. [SEC 4/11/2024 11:01 AM]

Read the first time January 09, 2024

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 44-7-327 SO AS TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO ITEMIZED PATIENT BILLING FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND SUPPLIES.

Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 3, Chapter 7, Title 44 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 44-7-327. (A) For purposes of this section:

(1) “Debt collection” means an action, conduct, or practice in collecting, or in soliciting for collection, consumer debts that are due or alleged to be due a creditor.

(2) “Health care provider” means a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility as defined in S.C. Code Section 44-7-130.

(3) “Health care service” means a service a health care provider provides to an individual to diagnose, prevent, treat, alleviate, cure, or heal a human health condition, illness, injury, or disease.

(B)(1) Beginning January 1, 2025, a health care provider that requests payment from a patient after providing a health care service or related supply to the patient shall submit with the request a written, itemized bill of the alleged remittance sought for each service and supply provided to the patient during the patient’s visit to the health care provider. The provider must submit the itemized bill no later than the thirtieth day after the provider receives a final payment on the provided service or supply from a third party.

(2) The itemized bill must include:

(a) a plain language description, in accordance with the most current billing reading level requirements and guidance provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, for each distinct health care service and quantity of supply the health care provider provided to the patient;

(b) the amount the provider alleges is due from the patient for each service and supply provided to the patient; and

(c) if the provider sought or is seeking reimbursement from a third party, any billing code submitted to the third party, and the patient’s responsibility amount due to the provider pursuant the third party insurer’s explanation of benefits. The third party insurer’s explanation of benefits shall set forth a specific explanation of the patient’s responsibility amount including, but not limited to, whether the amount is a deductible, coinsurance, or noncovered charges.

(3) A health care provider may issue the itemized bill electronically, including through a patient portal on the provider’s Internet website.

(4) A patient is entitled to obtain from the health care provider an itemized bill on request at any time after the itemized bill is initially issued under item (1).

(5) A health care provider may not pursue debt collection against a patient for a provided health care service or supply unless the provider has complied with this section.

(6) A collection agency is not liable under this section for billing inaccuracies provided by the health care provider. If any inaccuracies are determined, the collection agency must cease collection activities and return the account back to the health care provider.

(C) The appropriate licensing authority shall take disciplinary action against the provider for the violation as if the provider violated an applicable licensing law.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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