



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 79

PRINTER'S NO. 1326

PRIME SPONSOR: Venkat

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2024/25	FY 2025/26
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

Requires uniform financial assistance forms for charity care to be established by the Department of Health for use by hospitals that offer financial assistance.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 79 requires the Department of Health to develop uniform financial assistance forms to be used by all hospitals for their hospital-based financial assistance programs. The department must develop these forms within 180 days of the effective date of this subsection. These forms include:

- Uniform application to determine if an individual is an eligible patient.
- Uniform one-page template for hospitals to summarize their financial assistance eligibility criteria.
- A brief uniform statement of the availability of hospital-based financial assistance and of the application for that assistance.

The department must publish each hospital's financial assistance policies, and a summary of the forms specified in this legislation on its website.

Upon submission of a completed application for hospital-based financial assistance, the patient is not liable for any bills until the hospital has rendered a decision on that application.

Hospitals that have a hospital-based financial assistance policy will provide a copy of their policies and the summary of those policies to the department for placement on the department's website.

This legislation will take effect as follows:

- The requirement for information about hospital-based financial assistance program, and reporting of hospital-based financial assistance policies will take effect in 270 days upon enactment.
- The remainder of the legislation will take effect immediately upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Health does not anticipate any increase to its administrative costs for FY 2024/25 and FY 2025/26 as a result of this legislation. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact on commonwealth funds.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: May 13, 2025

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.