

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 499 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, FONTANA, GORDNER, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF,  
WOZNIAK, BOSCOLA, VANCE AND FERLO, FEBRUARY 11, 2011

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, FEBRUARY 11, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 8, 1986 (P.L.408, No.89), entitled, as  
2 reenacted, "An act providing for the creation of the Health  
3 Care Cost Containment Council, for its powers and duties, for  
4 health care cost containment through the collection and  
5 dissemination of data, for public accountability of health  
6 care costs and for health care for the indigent; and making  
7 an appropriation," providing for inpatient diagnostic-related  
8 group charge reporting.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. The act of July 8, 1986 (P.L.408, No.89), known  
12 as the Health Care Cost Containment Act, reenacted and amended  
13 July 17, 2003 (P.L.31, No.14), is amended by adding a section to  
14 read:

15 Section 1.1. Inpatient diagnostic-related group charge  
16 reporting.

17 (a) Report.--A health care facility shall report annually to  
18 the Department of Health the charges for the 25 most common  
19 inpatient diagnostic-related groups for which there are at least  
20 ten cases rendered by the health care facility during the 12  
21 months preceding the report.

1 (b) Website.--The Department of Health shall make the charge  
2 reports required under subsection (a) available on its website.  
3 The charge reports shall include disclaimers regarding factors,  
4 including case severity ratings and individual patient  
5 variations, which may affect actual charges to a patient for  
6 services rendered. Upon request, the department shall provide  
7 the charge reports by first class mail.

8 (c) Regulations.--The Department of Health shall promulgate  
9 regulations to provide for the reporting of charges by health  
10 care facilities. The regulations shall include all of the  
11 following:

12 (1) The method for health care facilities to report  
13 charges to the department.

14 (2) Standards that provide for the validity and  
15 comparability of charge reports.

16 (3) The format for making charge reports available to  
17 the public.

18 (d) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
19 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
20 subsection:

21 "Charge." The amount that a health care facility would  
22 expect to charge for an inpatient diagnostic-related group. A  
23 charge shall be the median charge for all cases of the  
24 diagnostic-related group occurring in the 12 months preceding  
25 the report.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.