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HOUSE BILL No. 1335

Proposed Changes to introduced printing by AM133501

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Payment assistance. Removes language concerning notice of payment assistance programs.

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning health.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 ~~← SECTION 1. IC 16-18-2-52.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.188-2025,~~
2 ~~SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE~~
3 ~~JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 52.5. (a) "Charity care", for purposes of~~
4 ~~IC 16-21-6, IC 16-21-9, IC 16-21-9.5, and IC 16-40-6, means the~~
5 ~~unreimbursed cost to a hospital of providing, funding, or otherwise~~
6 ~~financially supporting health care services:~~
7 ~~(1) to a person classified by the hospital as financially indigent~~
8 ~~or medically indigent on an inpatient or outpatient basis; and~~
9 ~~(2) to financially indigent patients through other nonprofit or~~
10 ~~public outpatient clinics, hospitals, or health care organizations.~~
11 ~~(b) As used in this section, "financially indigent" means an~~
12 ~~uninsured or underinsured person who is accepted for care with no~~
13 ~~obligation or a discounted obligation to pay for the services rendered~~
14 ~~based on the hospital's financial criteria and procedure used to~~
15 ~~determine if a patient is eligible for charity care. The criteria and~~
16 ~~procedure must include income levels and means testing indexed to the~~
17 ~~federal poverty guidelines. A hospital may determine that a person is~~
18 ~~financially or medically indigent under the hospital's eligibility system~~
19 ~~after health care services are provided.~~
20 ~~(c) As used in this section, "medically indigent" means a person~~
21 ~~whose medical or hospital bills after payment by third party payors~~

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1 exceed a specified percentage of the patient's annual gross income as
 2 determined in accordance with the hospital's eligibility system, and
 3 who is financially unable to pay the remaining bill.

4 ~~SECTION 2. IC 16-18-2-56.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 5 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 6 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: See. 56.4. "Clinical department", for
 7 purposes of IC 16-21-9, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-21-9-0.5.~~

8 ~~SECTION 3. IC 16-18-2-251 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 9 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 251. "Nonprofit
 10 hospital", for purposes of IC 16-21-9 and IC 16-21-9.5, has the
 11 meaning set forth in IC 16-21-9-3.~~

12 > SECTION ~~↔[1]. <IC 16-18-2-272>[IC 16-18-2-56].~~↔[4] IS
 13 ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ
 14 AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. ~~272~~↔[56].↔[4].
 15 "~~Payment assistance program~~Clinical department", for
 16 purposes of IC 16-21-9~~↔5~~, has the meaning set forth in
 17 IC 16-21-9~~↔1~~.5↔.

18 SECTION ~~↔[2].~~ IC 16-18-2-288.5 IS ADDED TO THE
 19 INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 20 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 288.5. "Preceptor", for purposes
 21 of IC 16-21-9, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-21-9-3.4.

22 SECTION ~~↔[3].~~ IC 16-21-9-0.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 23 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 24 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 0.5. As used in this chapter,
 25 "clinical department" means a department of a nonprofit hospital
 26 that provides direct patient care services.

27 SECTION ~~↔[4].~~ IC 16-21-9-3.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 28 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 29 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.4. As used in this chapter,
 30 "preceptor" means a licensed clinician who provides supervised
 31 clinical training to students enrolled in any of the following
 32 accredited programs:

- 33 (1) Medical.
- 34 (2) Nursing.
- 35 (3) Allied health.
- 36 (4) Behavioral health.
- 37 (5) A program related to a program described in
 38 subdivisions (1) through (4).

39 SECTION ~~↔[5].~~ IC 16-21-9-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 40 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) A nonprofit
 41 hospital shall develop:

- 42 (1) an organizational mission statement that identifies the



1 hospital's commitment to serving the health care needs of the
 2 community; and

3 (2) a community benefits plan defined as an operational plan for
 4 serving the community's health care needs that:

5 (A) sets out goals and objectives for providing community
 6 benefits that include charity care and government sponsored
 7 indigent health care; **and**

8 (B) identifies the populations and communities served by
 9 the hospital; **and**

10 (C) **includes a preceptor as set forth in subsection (b).**

11 A nonprofit hospital shall spend more on the nonprofit hospital's
 12 community benefits plan than on the nonprofit hospital's estimated
 13 value of tax exemptions, as calculated under section 7(a)(8) of this
 14 chapter.

15 (b) A nonprofit hospital shall maintain at least one (1)
 16 preceptor in at least sixty percent (60%) of the nonprofit hospital's
 17 clinical departments during each reporting year as part of the
 18 nonprofit hospital's community benefits plan requirement. A
 19 nonprofit hospital may satisfy this requirement through a
 20 combination of any of the following:

21 (1) Employed clinicians.

22 (2) Contracted clinicians.

23 (3) Shared preceptors participating in regional training
 24 partnerships.

25 (c) A nonprofit hospital may count preceptor activities as
 26 community benefits expenditures for reporting purposes under this
 27 chapter. Qualifying expenditures for the operation of a preceptor
 28 include the following:

29 (1) Salaries.

30 (2) Stipends.

31 (3) Administrative support.

32 (4) Training coordination.

33 (5) Other costs associated with clinical instruction.

34 (d) The state department shall verify compliance with this
 35 section and the reporting requirements under section 7 of this
 36 chapter. If the state department determines that a nonprofit
 37 hospital is not complying with this section, the state department
 38 may require the nonprofit hospital to submit a corrective action
 39 plan to the state department. If a nonprofit hospital continues to
 40 violate this section, the state department may take action under
 41 section 8 of this chapter.

42 SECTION ~~9~~[6] IC 16-21-9-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.6-2012,



1 SECTION 115, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 2 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) Each nonprofit hospital shall
 3 prepare an annual report of the community benefits plan. The report
 4 must include, in addition to the community benefits plan itself, the
 5 following ~~background~~ information:

6 (1) The hospital's mission statement.
 7 (2) A disclosure of the health care needs of the community that
 8 were considered in developing the hospital's community benefits
 9 plan.

10 (3) A disclosure of the amount and types of community benefits
 11 actually provided, including charity care. Charity care must be
 12 reported as a separate item from other community benefits.

13 (4) **Verification of compliance with the preceptor**
 14 **requirement under section 4(b) of this chapter, including the**
 15 **following information concerning preceptor activities:**

16 (A) **The number of clinical departments.**
 17 (B) **A list of departments meeting the preceptor**
 18 **requirement.**

19 (C) **Expenditures associated with the operation of a**
 20 **preceptor.**

21 (5) **The nonprofit hospital's expenditure for each of the**
 22 **following categories of community benefits:**

23 (A) **Charity care.**
 24 (B) **Government sponsored indigent health care.**
 25 (C) **Donations.**
 26 (D) **Education, including preceptor activities.**
 27 (E) **Government sponsored program services.**
 28 (F) **Research.**
 29 (G) **Subsidized health services.**

30 (6) **The nonprofit hospital's total community benefits**
 31 **expenditure.**

32 (7) **For each expenditure described in subdivision (5), a**
 33 **description of how the expenditure aligns with at least one**
 34 **(1) priority specified in the nonprofit hospital's community**
 35 **health needs assessment filed under 26 U.S.C. 501(r).**

36 (8) **An estimate of the financial value of all state and local tax**
 37 **exemptions under:**

38 (A) **IC 6-1.1;**
 39 (B) **IC 6-2.5; and**
 40 (C) **IC 6-3;**

41 received by the nonprofit hospital during the reporting year.

42 (9) **Measurable outcomes or progress indications related to**



the priorities specified in the nonprofit hospital's community health needs assessment filed under 26 U.S.C. 501(r).

13 (c) Each nonprofit hospital shall **post the report on the nonprofit**
14 **hospital's website and** prepare a statement that notifies the public that
15 the annual report of the community benefits plan is:

(1) public information;
(2) filed with the state department; and
(3) available to the public on **the nonprofit hospital's website** and that a written copy will be provided to the public by the nonprofit hospital upon request. from the state department.

21 This statement shall be posted in prominent places throughout the
22 hospital, including the emergency room waiting area and the
23 admissions office waiting area. The statement shall also be printed in
24 the hospital patient guide or other material that provides the patient
25 with information about the admissions criteria of the hospital.

26 (d) Each nonprofit hospital shall develop a written notice about
27 any charity care program operated by the hospital and how to apply for
28 charity care. The notice must be in appropriate languages if possible.
29 The notice must also be conspicuously posted in the following areas:

- (1) The general waiting area.
- (2) The waiting area for emergency services.
- (3) The business office.
- (4) Any other area that the hospital considers an appropriate area in which to provide notice of a charity care program.

- (1) Review each community benefits plan report submitted by a nonprofit hospital under this section for accuracy, completeness, and compliance.
- (2) Verify compliance with the expenditure alignment requirement under subsection (a)(7).

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(3) Assess whether the nonprofit hospital's community benefits plan expenditures exceed the tax exemption information submitted under subsection (a)(8).

(f) The state department shall publish a statewide community benefits summary report of all of the reports submitted under this section and post the summary report on the state department's website.

SECTION ~~10~~7. IC 16-21-9-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. **(a)** The state department may assess a civil penalty against a nonprofit hospital that fails to **do the following:**

(1) Comply with section 4 of this chapter.

(2) Make a report of the community benefits plan as required under this chapter.

(3) Otherwise comply with this chapter.

(b) For a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (a)(3), the state department may take any of the following actions:

(1) Require the nonprofit hospital to submit a corrective action plan.

(2) Impose a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation if the nonprofit hospital:

(A) fails to submit a corrective action plan;

(B) fails to comply with the corrective action plan; or

(C) continuously violates subsection (a)(1) or (a)(3).

A penalty imposed under this subsection shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(c) For a violation of subsection (a)(2), the penalty may not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day a report is delinquent after the date on which the report is due. No penalty may be assessed against a hospital under this ~~section~~ **subsection** until thirty (30) business days have elapsed after written notification to the hospital of its failure to file a report.

← SECTION 11. IC 16-21-9.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

Chapter 9.5. Notice of Payment Assistance Programs

— Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "payment assistance program" refers to any of the following:

(1) Charity care.

(2) Financial assistance:

~~(3) Discounted care.~~



1 (4) Assistance programs offered as part of a nonprofit
 2 hospital's community benefits plan.

3 Sec. 2. (a) A nonprofit hospital shall provide written notice of
 4 the nonprofit hospital's payment assistance program to a patient
 5 or the patient's representative at the following times:

6 (1) During registration or intake for inpatient or outpatient
 7 services.

8 (2) At discharge, either in a written format or electronically
 9 through a patient portal system.

10 (3) With the initial billing statement for the provided
 11 services.

12 (b) The written notice required under subsection (a) must
 13 include the following:

14 (1) A description of available payment assistance programs.

15 (2) Eligibility criteria.

16 (3) Application instructions.

17 (4) Contact information for a hospital representative when
 18 assistance is needed to complete the application.

19 Sec. 3. A nonprofit hospital shall post conspicuous signage
 20 notifying patients of the availability of payment assistance
 21 programs in the following locations:

22 (1) Inpatient and outpatient registration areas.

23 (2) Financial counseling offices.

24 (3) Emergency departments.

25 The signs must be printed in at least the five (5) most used
 26 languages spoken in the county based on the most recent United
 27 States Census Bureau American Community Survey.

28 Sec. 4. A nonprofit hospital shall make payment assistance
 29 program information available electronically through any patient
 30 portal maintained by the nonprofit hospital.

31 Sec. 5. Before beginning a collection action, a nonprofit
 32 hospital shall do the following:

33 (1) Determine whether the patient is eligible for a payment
 34 assistance program.

35 (2) Make a reasonable effort to notify the patient of available
 36 payment assistance programs and provide the patient with
 37 an application form.

38 Sec. 6. A nonprofit hospital shall annually report compliance
 39 with this chapter as part of the nonprofit hospital's community
 40 benefits plan report under IC 16-21-9-7.

41 Sec. 7. The state department may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2
 42 to administer and enforce this chapter.



1 —~~Sec. 8. The state department may assess a nonprofit hospital~~
2 ~~a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per~~
3 ~~violation for failure to comply with this chapter. A penalty~~
4 ~~collected under this section shall be deposited in the state general~~
5 ~~fund.➢~~

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