

CHAPTER 225

S.B. No. 1403

AN ACT

relating to the requirement that a hospital make an itemized statement of billed services available to a patient.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subsection (c), Section 2, Chapter 506, Acts of the 69th Legislature, Regular Session, 1985 (Article 4438c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended to read as follows:

(c) To be entitled to receive an itemized statement, an individual must request the statement not later than one year after the date on which the individual is discharged from the hospital. *The hospital shall provide the itemized statement to the individual not later than the 10th day after the date on which the individual requests the statement. If a person requests a total of more than two copies of an itemized statement, the hospital may charge a reasonable fee for the third and any subsequent copy provided to the person. The fee may not exceed the cost to the hospital to copy, process, and deliver the copy to the person.*

SECTION 2. Chapter 506, Acts of the 69th Legislature, Regular Session, 1985 (Article 4438c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 2A to read as follows:

*Sec. 2A. ENFORCEMENT. The Texas Department of Health may enforce this Act by injunction or by any other appropriate remedy, including suspending, revoking, or refusing to renew a hospital's license.*

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed the Senate on May 7, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0. Passed the House on May 15, 1987, by a non-record vote.

Approved May 28, 1987.

Effective Aug. 31, 1987, 90 days after date of adjournment.