HOUSE ENROLLED ACT No. 1004

AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning health.

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

SECTION 1. IC 12-15-11-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]: Sec. 6. (a) After a provider signs a provider agreement under this chapter, the office may not exclude the provider from participating in the Medicaid program by entering into an exclusive contract with another provider or group of providers, except as provided under section 7 of this chapter.

(b) The office or a managed care organization contracting with the office may not prohibit a provider from participating in a network of another insurer, managed care organization, or health maintenance organization.

SECTION 2. IC 16-18-2-375.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]: Sec. 375.5. "Weighted average negotiated charge", for purposes of IC 16-21-17 and IC 16-21-24.5, has the meaning set forth in IC 16-21-17-0.5.

SECTION 3. IC 16-21-17-0.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]: Sec. 0.5. As used in this chapter, "weighted average negotiated charge" means the amount determined in STEP SIX of the following formula with respect to a particular procedure:

STEP ONE: For each insurer with whom the hospital or an ambulatory outpatient surgical center negotiates a charge for
a particular procedure, determine the percentage of the hospital's patients or the ambulatory outpatient surgical center's patients insured by the insurer in the previous calendar year rounded to a whole percentage.

STEP TWO: Multiply each percentage determined under STEP ONE by one hundred (100) and express the results as whole numbers so that the sum of the percentage points determined under STEP ONE is one hundred (100).

STEP THREE: For a particular procedure, determine the amount of the negotiated charge for the procedure for each insurer described in STEP ONE.

STEP FOUR: For each insurer described in STEP ONE, multiply the STEP THREE amount determined for a particular procedure by the result determined under STEP TWO for that insurer.

STEP FIVE: For a particular procedure, determine the sum of the amounts determined under STEP FOUR for all of the insurers described in STEP ONE with respect to that procedure.

STEP SIX: For a particular procedure, determine the quotient of:

(A) the sum determined under STEP FIVE for that procedure; divided by
(B) one hundred (100).

SECTION 4. IC 16-21-17-1, AS ADDED BY SEA 5-2020, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]: Sec. 1. (a) Not later than March 31, 2021, a hospital and an ambulatory outpatient surgical center shall post on the Internet web site of the hospital or ambulatory outpatient surgical center pricing and other information specified in this chapter for the following:

(1) For as many of the seventy (70) shoppable services specified in the final rule of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services published in 84 FR 65524 that are provided by the hospital or ambulatory outpatient surgical center.

(2) In addition to the services specified in subdivision (1), the thirty (30) most common services that are provided by the hospital or ambulatory outpatient surgical center not included in subdivision (1).

(b) The following information, to the extent applicable, must be included on the Internet web site by a hospital and an ambulatory outpatient surgical center for the shoppable and common services described in subsection (a):

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(1) A description of the shoppable and common service.
(2) The weighted average negotiated charge per service per
provider type for each of the following categories:
   (A) Any nongovernment sponsored health benefit plan or
       insurance plan provided by a health carrier in which the
       provider is in the network.
   (B) Medicare, including fee for service and Medicare
       Advantage.
   (C) Self-pay without charitable assistance from the hospital or
       ambulatory outpatient surgical center.
   (D) Self-pay with charitable assistance from the hospital or
       ambulatory outpatient surgical center.
   (E) Medicaid, including fee for service and risk based
       managed care.

SECTION 5. IC 16-21-24.5-2, AS ADDED BY SEA 5-2020,
SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
JULY 1, 2020]: Sec. 2. (a) Not later than March 31, 2021, an urgent
care facility shall post on the Internet web site of the urgent care
facility pricing and other information specified in this chapter for the
fifteen (15) most common services that are provided by the urgent care
facility.

(b) The following information, to the extent applicable, must be
included on the Internet web site by an urgent care facility for the
fifteen (15) most common services described in subsection (a):
   (1) The number of times each service is provided by the urgent
care facility.
   (2) A description of the service.
   (3) The weighted average negotiated charge per service per
provider type for each of the following categories:
       (A) Any nongovernment sponsored health benefit plan or
           insurance provided by a health carrier in which the
           provider is in the network.
       (B) Medicare, including fee for service and Medicare
           Advantage.
       (C) Self-pay without charitable assistance from the urgent care
           facility.
       (D) Self-pay with charitable assistance from the urgent care
           facility.
       (E) Medicaid, including fee for service and risk based
           managed care.

SECTION 6. IC 25-1-9-23 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
Sec. 23. (a) This section does not apply to emergency services.

(b) As used in this section, "covered individual" means an individual who is entitled to be provided health care services at a cost established according to a network plan.

(c) As used in this section, "emergency services" means services that are:

(1) furnished by a provider qualified to furnish emergency services; and

(2) needed to evaluate or stabilize an emergency medical condition.

(d) As used in this section, "in network practitioner" means a practitioner who is required under a network plan to provide health care services to covered individuals at not more than a preestablished rate or amount of compensation.

(e) As used in this section, "network plan" means a plan under which facilities and practitioners are required by contract to provide health care services to covered individuals at not more than a preestablished rate or amount of compensation.

(f) As used in this section, "practitioner" means the following:

(1) An individual licensed under IC 25 who provides professional health care services to individuals in a facility.

(2) An organization:

(A) that consists of practitioners described in subdivision (1); and

(B) through which practitioners described in subdivision (1) provide health care services.

(3) An entity that:

(A) is not a facility; and

(B) employs practitioners described in subdivision (1) to provide health care services.

(g) An in network practitioner who provides covered health care services to a covered individual may not charge more for the covered health care services than allowed according to the rate or amount of compensation established by the individual's network plan.

(h) This subsection is effective beginning July 1, 2021. Except as provided in subsection (l), a practitioner shall provide to a covered individual, at least five (5) days before the health care service is scheduled to be provided to the covered individual, a good faith estimate of the amount that the practitioner intends to charge the covered individual for the health care service and in compliance
with IC 25-1-9.8-14(a).

(i) An out of network practitioner who provides health care services at an in network facility to a covered individual may not be reimbursed more for the health care services than allowed according to the rate or amount of compensation established by the covered individual's network plan unless all of the following conditions are met:

1. At least five (5) days before the health care services are scheduled to be provided to the covered individual, the practitioner provides to the covered individual, on a form separate from any other form provided to the covered individual by the practitioner, a statement in conspicuous type at least as large as 14 point type that meets the following requirements:

   A. Includes a notice reading substantially as follows:
      "[Name of practitioner] intends to charge you more for [name or description of health care services] than allowed according to the rate or amount of compensation established by the network plan applying to your coverage. [Name of practitioner] is not entitled to charge this much for [name or description of health care services] unless you give your written consent to the charge."

   B. Sets forth the practitioner's good faith estimate of the amount that the practitioner intends to charge for the health care services provided to the covered individual.

   C. Includes a notice reading substantially as follows concerning the good faith estimate set forth under clause (B): "The estimate of our intended charge for [name or description of health care services] set forth in this statement is provided in good faith and is our best estimate of the amount we will charge. If our actual charge for [name or description of health care services] exceeds our estimate, we will explain to you why the charge exceeds the estimate."

   2. The covered individual signs the statement provided under subdivision (1), signifying the covered individual's consent to the charge for the health care services being greater than allowed according to the rate or amount of compensation established by the network plan.

   (j) If an out of network practitioner does not meet the requirements of subsection (i), the out of network practitioner shall include on any bill remitted to a covered individual a written
statement in 14 point type stating that the covered individual is not responsible for more than the rate or amount of compensation established by the covered individual's network plan plus any required copayment, deductible, or coinsurance.

(k) If a covered individual's network plan remits reimbursement to the covered individual for health care services subject to the reimbursement limitation of subsection (i), the network plan shall provide with the reimbursement a written statement in 14 point type that states that the covered individual is not responsible for more than the rate or amount of compensation established by the covered individual's network plan and that is included in the reimbursement plus any required copayment, deductible, or coinsurance.

(l) If the charge of a practitioner for health care services provided to a covered individual exceeds the estimate provided to the covered individual under subsection (i)(1)(B), the facility or practitioner shall explain in a writing provided to the covered individual why the charge exceeds the estimate.

(m) An in network practitioner is not required to provide a covered individual with the good faith estimate required under subsection (h) if the nonemergency health care service is scheduled to be performed by the practitioner within five (5) business days after the health care service is ordered.

(n) The department of insurance shall adopt emergency rules under IC 4-22-2-37.1 to specify the requirements of the notifications set forth in subsections (j) and (k).

SECTION 7. IC 25-1-9.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]:

Chapter 9.8. Practitioner Good Faith Estimates

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "covered individual" means an individual who is entitled to be provided health care services according to a health carrier's network plan.

Sec. 1.5. As used in this chapter, "episode of care" means the medical care ordered to be provided for a specific medical procedure, condition, or illness.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "good faith estimate" means a reasonable estimate of the price a practitioner anticipates charging for an episode of care for nonemergency health care services that:

(1) is made by a practitioner under this chapter upon the request of:
(A) the individual for whom the nonemergency health care service has been ordered; or
(B) the provider facility in which the nonemergency health care service will be provided; and
(2) is not binding upon the practitioner.
Sec. 3. (a) As used in this chapter, "health carrier" means an entity:
(1) that is subject to IC 27 and the administrative rules adopted under IC 27; and
(2) that enters into a contract to:
   (A) provide health care services;
   (B) deliver health care services;
   (C) arrange for health care services; or
   (D) pay for or reimburse any of the costs of health care services.
(b) The term includes the following:
   (1) An insurer, as defined in IC 27-1-2-3(x), that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance, as defined in IC 27-8-5-1(a).
   (2) A health maintenance organization, as defined in IC 27-13-1-19.
   (3) An administrator (as defined in IC 27-1-25-1(a)) that is licensed under IC 27-1-25.
   (4) A state employee health plan offered under IC 5-10-8.
   (5) A short term insurance plan (as defined by IC 27-8-5.9-3).
   (6) Any other entity that provides a plan of health insurance, health benefits, or health care services.
(c) The term does not include:
   (1) an insurer that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance;
   (2) a limited service health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-34-4); or
   (3) an administrator;
that only provides coverage for, or processes claims for, dental or vision care services.
Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "in network", when used in reference to a practitioner, means that the health care services provided by the practitioner are subject to a health carrier's network plan.
Sec. 5. (a) As used in this chapter, "network" means a group of provider facilities and practitioners that:
   (1) provide health care services to covered individuals; and
(2) have agreed to, or are otherwise subject to, maximum limits on the prices for the health care services to be provided to the covered individuals.

(b) The term includes the following:

(1) A network described in subsection (a) that is established pursuant to a contract between an insurer providing coverage under a group health policy and:
   (A) individual provider facilities and practitioners;
   (B) a preferred provider organization; or
   (C) an entity that employs or represents providers, including:
      (i) an independent practice association; and
      (ii) a physician-hospital organization.

(2) A health maintenance organization, as defined in IC 27-13-1-19.

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "network plan" means a plan of a health carrier that:

(1) requires a covered individual to receive; or
(2) creates incentives, including financial incentives, for a covered individual to receive;

health care services from one (1) or more providers that are under contract with, managed by, or owned by the health carrier.

Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "nonemergency health care service" means a discrete service or series of services ordered by a practitioner for an episode of care for the:

(1) diagnosis;
(2) prevention;
(3) treatment;
(4) cure; or
(5) relief;

of a physical, mental, or behavioral health condition, illness, injury, or disease that is not provided on an emergency or urgent care basis.

Sec. 8. (a) As used in this chapter, "practitioner" means an individual or entity duly licensed or legally authorized to provide health care services.

(b) The term does not include the following:

(1) A dentist licensed under IC 25-14.
(2) An optometrist licensed under IC 25-24.

Sec. 8.5. As used in this chapter, "price" means the negotiated rate between the:

(1) provider facility and practitioner; and
Sec. 9. As used in this chapter, "provider" means:
(1) a provider facility; or
(2) a practitioner.

Sec. 10. (a) As used in this chapter, "provider facility" means any of the following:
(1) A hospital licensed under IC 16-21-2.
(2) An ambulatory outpatient surgery center licensed under IC 16-21-2.
(3) An abortion clinic licensed under IC 16-21-2.
(4) A birthing center licensed under IC 16-21-2.
(5) Except for an urgent care facility (as defined by IC 27-1-46-10.5), a facility that provides diagnostic services to the medical profession or the general public.
(6) A laboratory where clinical pathology tests are carried out on specimens to obtain information about the health of a patient.
(7) A facility where radiologic and electromagnetic images are made to obtain information about the health of a patient.
(8) An infusion center that administers intravenous medications.

(b) The term does not include the following:
(1) A private mental health institution licensed under IC 12-25.
(2) A Medicare certified, freestanding rehabilitation hospital.

Sec. 11. (a) This section does not apply to an individual who is a Medicaid recipient.

(b) An individual for whom a nonemergency health care service has been ordered, scheduled, or referred may request from the practitioner who may provide the nonemergency health care service a good faith estimate of the total price the practitioner will charge for providing the nonemergency health care service.

(c) A practitioner who receives a request from a patient under subsection (b) shall, not more than five (5) business days after receiving relevant information from the individual, provide to the individual a good faith estimate of the price that the practitioner will charge for providing the nonemergency health care service.

(d) A practitioner must ensure that a good faith estimate provided to an individual under this section is accompanied by a notice stating that:
(1) an estimate provided under this section is not binding on the practitioner;
(2) the price the practitioner charges the individual may vary from the estimate based on the individual's medical needs; and
(3) the estimate provided under this section is only valid for thirty (30) days.
(e) A practitioner may not charge an individual for information provided under this section.

Sec. 12. (a) If:
(1) the individual who requests a good faith estimate from a practitioner under this chapter is a covered individual with respect to a network plan; and
(2) the practitioner from which the individual requests the good faith estimate is in network with respect to the same network plan;
the good faith estimate that the practitioner provides to the individual under this chapter must be based on the negotiated price to which the practitioner has agreed as an in-network provider.

(b) If the individual who requests a good faith estimate from a practitioner under this chapter:
(1) is not a covered individual with respect to any network plan; or
(2) is not a covered individual with respect to a network plan with respect to which the practitioner is in network;
the good faith estimate that the practitioner provides to the individual under this chapter must be based on the price that the practitioner charges for the nonemergency health care service in the absence of any network plan.

Sec. 13. A practitioner may provide a good faith estimate to an individual under this chapter:
(1) in a writing delivered to the individual;
(2) by electronic mail; or
(3) through a mobile application or other Internet web-based method, if available;
according to the preference expressed by the individual.

Sec. 14. (a) A good faith estimate provided by a practitioner to an individual under this chapter must meet the following requirements:
(1) Provide a summary of the services and material items that the good faith estimate is based on.
(2) Include:
(A) the price charged for the services and material items that the practitioner will provide and charge the individual; and

(B) the price that the provider facility in which the health care service will be performed charged for:

(i) the use of the provider facility to care for the individual for the nonemergency health care service;
(ii) the services rendered by the staff of the provider facility in connection with the nonemergency health care service; and
(iii) medication, supplies, equipment, and material items to be provided to or used by the individual while the individual is present in the provider facility in connection with the nonemergency health care service; for imaging, laboratory services, diagnostic services, therapy, observation services, and other services expected to be provided to the individual for the episode of care.

(3) Include a total figure that is a sum of the estimated prices referred to in subdivisions (1) and (2).

(b) Subsection (a) does not prohibit a practitioner from providing to an individual a good faith estimate that indicates how much of the total figure stated under subsection (a)(2) will be the individual's out-of-pocket expense after the health carrier's payment of charges.

(c) A health carrier and a provider facility must provide a practitioner with the information needed by the practitioner to comply with the requirements under this chapter not more than two (2) business days after receiving the request. The provider facility shall provide the practitioner with all relevant information for services and costs for the good faith estimate that are to be provided by the provider facility for inclusion in a good faith estimate by the practitioner.

(d) A practitioner is not subject to the penalties under section 19 of this chapter if:

(1) a health carrier or provider facility fails to provide the practitioner with the information as required under subsection (c);
(2) the practitioner provides the individual with a good faith estimate based on any information that the practitioner has; and
(3) the practitioner provides the individual with an updated
good faith estimate after the health carrier or provider facility
has provided the information required under subsection (c).

Sec. 15. If:
(1) a practitioner is expected to provide a nonemergency
health care service to an individual in a provider facility; and
(2) the provider facility receives a request from an individual
for a good faith estimate under IC 27-1-46;
the practitioner, upon request from the provider facility, shall
provide to the provider facility a good faith estimate of the
practitioner's price for providing the nonemergency health care
service to enable the provider facility to comply with
IC 27-1-46-11.

Sec. 16. (a) A practitioner that has ordered the individual for a
nonemergency health care service shall provide to the individual
an electronic or paper copy of a written notice that states the
following, or words to the same effect: "A patient may at any time
ask a health care provider for an estimate of the price the health
care providers and health facility will charge for providing a
nonemergency medical service. The law requires that the estimate
be provided within 5 business days."

(b) The appropriate board (as defined in IC 25-1-9-1) may adopt
rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish requirements for practitioners
to provide additional charging information under this section.

Sec. 17. If:
(1) a practitioner receives a request for a good faith estimate
under this chapter; and
(2) the patient is eligible for Medicare coverage;
the practitioner shall provide a good faith estimate to the patient
within five (5) business days based on available Medicare rates.

Sec. 18. (a) As used in this section, "waiting room" means a
space in a building used by a practitioner in which people check in
or register to:
(1) be seen by practitioners; or
(2) meet with members of the staff of a practitioner's office.
(b) A practitioner shall ensure that each waiting room of the
practitioner's office includes at least one (1) printed notice that:
(1) is designed, lettered, and positioned within the waiting
room so as to be conspicuous to and readable by any
individual with normal vision who visits the waiting room; and
(2) states the following, or words to the same effect: "A patient may ask for an estimate of the amount the patient will be charged for a nonemergency medical service provided in this practitioner office. The law requires that an estimate be provided within 5 business days."

(c) If a practitioner maintains an Internet web site, the practitioner shall ensure that the Internet web site includes at least one (1) printed notice that:

(1) is designed, lettered, and featured on the Internet web site so as to be conspicuous to and readable by any individual with normal vision who visits the Internet web site; and
(2) states the following, or words to the same effect: "A patient may ask for an estimate of the amount the patient will be charged for a nonemergency medical service provided in our office. The law requires that an estimate be provided within 5 business days."

Sec. 19. The appropriate board (as defined in IC 25-1-9-1) may take action against a practitioner:

(1) under IC 25-1-9-9(a)(3) or IC 25-1-9-9(a)(4) for an initial violation or isolated violations of this chapter; or
(2) under IC 25-1-9-9(a)(6) for repeated or persistent violations of this chapter;

concerning the providing of a good faith estimate to an individual for whom a nonemergency health care service has been ordered or the providing of notice in the practitioner's waiting room or on the practitioner's Internet web site that a patient may at any time ask for an estimate of the price that the patient will be charged for a medical service.

SECTION 8. IC 25-22.5-5.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]:

Chapter 5.5. Physician Noncompete Agreements

Sec. 1. This chapter applies to physician noncompete agreements originally entered into on or after July 1, 2020.

Sec. 2. To be enforceable, a physician noncompete agreement must include all of the following provisions:

(1) A provision that requires the employer of the physician to provide the physician with a copy of any notice that:
(A) concerns the physician's departure from the employer; and
(B) was sent to any patient seen or treated by the physician during the two (2) year period preceding the termination
of the physician's employment or the expiration of the physician's contract. Provided, however, the patient names and contact information be redacted from the copy of the notice provided from the employer of the physician to the physician.

(2) A provision that requires the physician's employer to, in good faith, provide the physician's last known or current contact and location information to a patient who:
   (A) requests updated contact and location information for the physician; and
   (B) was seen or treated by the physician during the two (2) year period preceding the termination of the physician's employment or the expiration of the physician's contract.

(3) A provision that provides the physician with:
   (A) access to; or
   (B) copies of;
any medical record associated with a patient described in subdivision (1) or (2) upon receipt of the patient's consent.

(4) A provision that provides the physician whose employment has terminated or whose contract has expired with the option to purchase a complete and final release from the terms of the enforceable physician noncompete agreement at a reasonable price. However, in the event the physician elects not to exercise the purchase option, then the option to purchase provision may not be used in any manner to restrict, bar, or otherwise limit the employer's equitable remedies, including the employer's enforcement of the physician noncompete agreement.

(5) A provision that prohibits the providing of patient medical records to a requesting physician in a format that materially differs from the format used to create or store the medical record during the routine or ordinary course of business, unless a different format is mutually agreed upon by the parties. Paper or portable document format copies of the medical records satisfy the formatting provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 3. A person or entity required to create, copy, or transfer a patient medical record for a reason specified in this chapter may charge a reasonable fee for the service as permitted under applicable state or federal law.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit, limit, impair, or abrogate:
(1) the ability of the parties to negotiate any other term not specified under this chapter; or
(2) any other right, remedy, or relief permitted by law or in equity.

SECTION 9. IC 25-22.5-17 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]:

Chapter 17. Physician's Patient Information
Sec. 1. If a physician licensed under this article leaves the employment of an employer, the following apply:
(1) The employer of the physician must provide the physician with a copy of any notice that:
   (A) concerns the physician's departure from the employer; and
   (B) was sent to any patient seen or treated by the physician during the two (2) year period preceding the termination of the physician's employment or the expiration of the physician's contract. However, the patient names and contact information must be redacted from the copy of the notice provided from the employer of the physician to the physician.
(2) The physician's employer must, in good faith, provide the physician's last known or current contact and location information to a patient who:
   (A) requests updated contact and location information for the physician; and
   (B) was seen or treated by the physician during the two (2) year period preceding the termination of the physician's employment or the expiration of the physician's contract.
(3) The physician's employer must provide the physician with:
   (A) access to; or
   (B) copies of;
any medical record associated with a patient described in subdivision (1) or (2) upon receipt of the patient's consent.
(4) The physician's employer may not provide patient medical records to a requesting physician in a format that materially differs from the format used to create or store the medical record during the routine or ordinary course of business, unless a different format is mutually agreed upon by the parties. Paper or portable document format copies of the medical records satisfy the formatting provisions of this chapter.
Sec. 2. A person or entity required to create, copy, or transfer a patient medical record for a reason specified in this chapter may charge a reasonable fee for the service as permitted under applicable state or federal law.

SECTION 10. IC 27-1-37-7, AS ADDED BY SEA 5-2020, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]: Sec. 7. (a) This section applies to health provider contracts beginning July 1, 2020: entered into or renewed after June 30, 2020.

(b) A health provider contract, including a contract with a pharmacy benefit manager or a health facility, may not contain a provision that prohibits the disclosure of health care service claims data to employers providing the coverage. However, any disclosure of claims data must comply with health privacy laws, including the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (P.L. 104-191).

(c) A violation of this section constitutes an unfair or deceptive act or practice in the business of insurance under IC 27-4-1-4.

SECTION 11. IC 27-1-45 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]:

Chapter 45. Health Facility Compensation

Sec. 0.5. This chapter does not apply to emergency services.

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "covered individual" means an individual who is entitled to be provided health care services at a cost established according to a network plan.

Sec. 1.5. As used in this chapter, "emergency services" means services that are:

(1) furnished by a provider qualified to furnish emergency services; and
(2) needed to evaluate or stabilize an emergency medical condition.

Sec. 2. (a) As used in this chapter, "facility" means an institution in which health care services are provided to individuals. The term includes:

(1) hospitals and other licensed ambulatory surgical centers; and
(2) ambulatory outpatient surgical centers.

(b) The term does not include the following:

(1) A private mental health institution licensed under IC 12-25.
(2) A Medicare certified, freestanding rehabilitation hospital.
Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "in network provider" means a provider that is required under a network plan to provide health care services to covered individuals at not more than a preestablished rate or amount of compensation.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "network plan" means a plan under which providers are required by contract to provide health care services to covered individuals at not more than a preestablished rate or amount of compensation.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "practitioner" means the following:

(1) An individual licensed under IC 25 who provides professional health care services to individuals in a facility.
(2) An organization:
   (A) that consists of practitioners described in subdivision (1); and
   (B) through which practitioners described in subdivision (1) provide health care services.
(3) An entity that:
   (A) is not a facility; and
   (B) employs practitioners described in subdivision (1) to provide health care services.

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "provider" means:
(1) a facility; or
(2) a practitioner.

Sec. 7. (a) This section is effective beginning July 1, 2021.
(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), a:
(1) facility; and
(2) practitioner;
shall provide to a covered individual, at least five (5) days before a health care service is scheduled to be provided by the facility or practitioner to the covered individual, a good faith estimate of the amount that the facility or practitioner intends to charge for each health care service to be provided to the covered individual and in compliance with IC 27-1-46-11(c).
(c) A facility or a practitioner is not required to provide the good faith estimate required in subsection (b) if the health care service to be provided to the covered individual is scheduled to be performed within five (5) business days after the health care service is ordered.

Sec. 8. (a) An out of network practitioner who provides health care services at an in network facility to a covered individual may not be reimbursed more for the health care services than allowed
according to the rate or amount of compensation established by the covered individual's network plan as described in subsection (b) unless all of the following conditions are met:

(1) At least five (5) days before the health care services are scheduled to be provided to the covered individual, the facility or practitioner provides to the covered individual, on a form separate from any other form provided to the covered individual by the facility or practitioner, a statement in conspicuous type at least as large as 14 point type that meets the following requirements:

(A) Includes a notice reading substantially as follows: "[Name of facility or practitioner] intends to charge you more for [name or description of health care services] than allowed according to the rate or amount of compensation established by the network plan applying to your coverage. [Name of facility or practitioner] is not entitled to charge this much for [name or description of health care services] unless you give your written consent to the charge.".

(B) Sets forth the facility's or practitioner's good faith estimate of the amount that the facility or practitioner intends to charge for the health care services provided to the covered individual.

(C) Includes a notice reading substantially as follows concerning the good faith estimate set forth under clause (B): "The estimate of our intended charge for [name or description of health care services] set forth in this statement is provided in good faith and is our best estimate of the amount we will charge. If our actual charge for [name or description of health care services] exceeds our estimate, we will explain to you why the charge exceeds the estimate."

(2) The covered individual signs the statement provided under subdivision (1), signifying the covered individual's consent to the charge for the health care services being greater than allowed according to the rate or amount of compensation established by the network plan.

(b) If an out of network practitioner does not meet the requirements of subsection (a), the out of network practitioner shall include on any bill remitted to a covered individual a written statement in 14 point type stating that the covered individual is not responsible for more than the rate or amount of compensation.

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established by the covered individual's network plan plus any required copayment, deductible, or coinsurance.

(c) If a covered individual's network plan remits reimbursement to the covered individual for health care services subject to the reimbursement limitation of subsection (a), the network plan shall provide with the reimbursement a written statement in 14 point type that states that the covered individual is not responsible for more than the rate or amount of compensation established by the covered individual's network plan and that is included in the reimbursement plus any required copayment, deductible, or coinsurance.

(d) If the charge of a facility or practitioner for health care services provided to a covered individual exceeds the estimate provided to the covered individual under subsection (a)(1)(B), the facility or practitioner shall explain in a writing provided to the covered individual why the charge exceeds the estimate.

(e) The department shall adopt emergency rules under IC 4-22-2-37.1 to specify the requirements of the notifications set forth in:

(1) subsections (b) and (c); and
(2) IC 25-1-9-23(j) and IC 25-1-9-23(k).

Sec. 9. (a) The insurance commissioner may, after notice and hearing under IC 4-21.5, impose on the provider facility a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars ($1,000) for each violation of this chapter.

(b) A civil penalty collected under this section shall be deposited in the department of insurance fund established by IC 27-1-3-28.

SECTION 12. IC 27-1-46 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]:

Chapter 46. Provider Facility Good Faith Estimates

Sec. 0.5. Nothing in this chapter prohibits:

(1) a self-funded health benefit plan that complies with the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.); or
(2) a:
(A) self-insurance program established to provide group health coverage as described in IC 5-10-8-7(b); or
(B) a contract for health services as described in IC 5-10-8-7(c);
from providing information requested by a practitioner or provider facility under this chapter.

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Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "covered individual" means an individual who is entitled to be provided health care services according to a health carrier's network plan.

Sec. 1.5. As used in this chapter, "episode of care" means the medical care ordered to be provided for a specific medical procedure, condition, or illness.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "good faith estimate" means a reasonable estimate of the price a provider anticipates charging for an episode of care for nonemergency health care services that:

1. is made by a provider under this chapter upon the request of the individual for whom the nonemergency health care service has been ordered; and
2. is not binding upon the provider.

Sec. 3. (a) As used in this chapter, "health carrier" means an entity:

1. that is subject to IC 27 and the administrative rules adopted under IC 27; and
2. that enters into a contract to:
   A. provide health care services;
   B. deliver health care services;
   C. arrange for health care services; or
   D. pay for or reimburse any of the costs of health care services.

(b) The term includes the following:
1. An insurer, as defined in IC 27-1-2-3(x), that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance, as defined in IC 27-8-5-1(a).
2. A health maintenance organization, as defined in IC 27-13-1-19.
3. An administrator (as defined in IC 27-1-25-1(a)) that is licensed under IC 27-1-25.
4. A state employee health plan offered under IC 5-10-8.
5. A short term insurance plan (as defined by IC 27-8-5.9-3).
6. Any other entity that provides a plan of health insurance, health benefits, or health care services.

(c) The term does not include:
1. an insurer that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance;
2. a limited service health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-34-4); or
3. an administrator;
that only provides coverage for, or processes claims for, dental or vision care services.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "in network", when used in reference to a provider, means that the health care services provided by the provider are subject to a health carrier's network plan.

Sec. 5. (a) As used in this chapter, "network" means a group of provider facilities and practitioners that:

(1) provide health care services to covered individuals; and
(2) have agreed to, or are otherwise subject to, maximum limits on the prices for the health care services to be provided to the covered individuals.

(b) The term includes the following:

(1) A network described in subsection (a) that is established pursuant to a contract between an insurer providing coverage under a group health policy and:
   (A) individual provider facilities and practitioners;
   (B) a preferred provider organization; or
   (C) an entity that employs or represents providers, including:
      (i) an independent practice association; and
      (ii) a physician-hospital organization.

(2) A health maintenance organization, as defined in IC 27-13-1-19.

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "network plan" means a plan of a health carrier that:

(1) requires a covered individual to receive; or
(2) creates incentives, including financial incentives, for a covered individual to receive;

health care services from one (1) or more providers that are under contract with, managed by, or owned by the health carrier.

Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "nonemergency health care service" means a discrete service or series of services ordered by a practitioner for an episode of care for the purpose of:

(1) diagnosis;
(2) prevention;
(3) treatment;
(4) cure; or
(5) relief;

of a physical, mental, or behavioral health condition, illness, injury, or disease that is not provided on an emergency or urgent care basis.
Sec. 8. (a) As used in this chapter, "practitioner" means an individual or entity duly licensed or legally authorized to provide health care services.

(b) The term does not include the following:

1. A dentist licensed under IC 25-14.

Sec. 8.5. As used in this chapter, "price" means the negotiated rate between the:

1. provider facility and practitioner; and
2. covered individual's primary health carrier.

Sec. 9. As used in this chapter, "provider" means:

1. a provider facility; or
2. a practitioner.

Sec. 10. (a) As used in this chapter, "provider facility" means any of the following:

1. A hospital licensed under IC 16-21-2.
3. An abortion clinic licensed under IC 16-21-2.
5. Except for an urgent care facility, a facility that provides diagnostic services to the medical profession or the general public, including outpatient facilities.
6. A laboratory where clinical pathology tests are carried out on specimens to obtain information about the health of a patient.
7. A facility where radiologic and electromagnetic images are made to obtain information about the health of a patient.
8. An infusion center that administers intravenous medications.

(b) The term does not include the following:

1. A private mental health institution licensed under IC 12-25.
2. A Medicare certified, freestanding rehabilitation hospital.

Sec. 10.5. (a) As used in this chapter, "urgent care facility" means a freestanding health care facility that offers episodic, walk-in care for the treatment of acute, but not life threatening, health conditions.

(b) The term does not include an emergency department of a hospital or a nonprofit or government operated health clinic.

Sec. 11. (a) This section does not:

1. apply to a individual who is a Medicaid recipient; or
(2) limit the authority of a legal representative of the patient.

(b) An individual for whom a nonemergency health care service has been ordered, scheduled, or referred may request from the provider facility in which the nonemergency health care service will be provided a good faith estimate of the price that will be charged for the nonemergency health care service.

(c) A provider facility that receives a request from an individual under subsection (b) shall, not more than five (5) business days after receiving relevant information from the individual, provide to the individual a good faith estimate of:

(1) the price that the provider facility in which the health care service will be performed will charge for:

(A) the use of the provider facility to care for the individual for the nonemergency health care service;
(B) the services rendered by the staff of the provider facility in connection with the nonemergency health care service; and
(C) medication, supplies, equipment, and material items to be provided to or used by the individual while the individual is present in the provider facility in connection with the nonemergency health care service; and

(2) the price charged for the services of all practitioners, support staff, and other persons who provide professional health services:

(A) who may provide services to or for the individual during the individual's presence in the provider facility for the nonemergency health care service; and
(B) for whose services the individual will be charged separately from the charge of the provider facility.

(d) The price that must be included in a good faith estimate under this section includes all services under subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2) for imaging, laboratory services, diagnostic services, therapy, observation services, and other services expected to be provided to the individual for the episode of care.

(e) A provider facility shall ensure that a good faith estimate states that:

(1) an estimate provided under this section is not binding on the provider facility;
(2) the price the provider facility charges the individual may vary from the estimate based on the individual's medical needs; and
(3) the estimate provided under this section is only valid for thirty (30) days.
(f) A provider facility may not charge a patient for information provided under this section.
Sec. 12. (a) If:
(1) the individual who requests a good faith estimate from a provider facility under this chapter and has been verified as a covered individual with respect to a network plan; and
(2) the provider facility from which the individual requests the good faith estimate is in network with respect to the same network plan;
the good faith estimate that the provider facility provides to the individual under this chapter must be based on the price to which the provider facility and any practitioners referred to in section 11(c)(2) of this chapter have agreed as in network providers.
(b) If the individual who requests a good faith estimate from a provider facility under this chapter:
(1) is not a covered individual with respect to any network plan; or
(2) is not a covered individual with respect to a network plan with respect to which the provider facility is in network;
the good faith estimate that the provider facility provides to the individual under this chapter must be based on the price that the provider facility and any practitioners referred to in section 11(c)(2) of this chapter charge for the nonemergency health care services in the absence of any network plan.
Sec. 13. A provider facility may provide a good faith estimate to an individual under this chapter:
(1) in a writing delivered to the individual;
(2) by electronic mail; or
(3) through a mobile application or other Internet web based method, if available;
according to the preference expressed by the individual.
Sec. 14. (a) A good faith estimate provided by a provider facility to an individual under this chapter must:
(1) provide a summary of the services and material items that the good faith estimate is based on; and
(2) include a total figure that is a sum of the estimated prices referred to in subdivision (1).
(b) Subsection (a) does not prohibit a provider facility from providing to an individual a good faith estimate that indicates how much of the total figure stated under subsection (a)(2) will be the
individual's out-of-pocket expense after the health carrier's payment of charges.

(c) A health carrier or practitioner must provide a provider facility with the information needed by the provider facility to comply with the requirements under this chapter not more than two (2) business days after receiving the request.

(d) A provider facility is not subject to the penalties under section 17 of this chapter if:

(1) a health carrier or practitioner fails to provide the provider facility with the information as required under subsection (c);

(2) the provider facility provides the individual with a good faith estimate based on any information that the provider facility has; and

(3) the provider facility provides the individual with an updated good faith estimate after the health carrier or practitioner has provided the information required under subsection (c).

Sec. 15. (a) As used in this section, "waiting room" means a space in a building used by a provider facility in which people check in or register to:

(1) be seen by practitioners; or

(2) meet with members of the staff of the provider facility.

(b) A provider facility shall ensure that each waiting room of the provider facility includes at least one (1) printed notice that:

(1) is designed, lettered, and positioned within the waiting room so as to be conspicuous to and readable by any individual with normal vision who visits the waiting room; and

(2) states the following, or words to the same effect: "A patient may ask for an estimate of the amount the patient will be charged for a nonemergency medical service provided in this facility. The law requires that an estimate be provided within 5 business days."

(c) If a provider facility maintains an Internet web site, the provider facility shall ensure that the Internet web site includes at least one (1) printed notice that:

(1) is designed, lettered, and featured on the Internet web site so as to be conspicuous to and readable by any individual with normal vision who visits the Internet web site; and

(2) states the following, or words to the same effect: "A patient may ask for an estimate of the amount the patient will
be charged for a nonemergency medical service provided in our facility. The law requires that an estimate be provided within 5 business days."

Sec. 16. If:
(1) a provider facility receives a request for a good faith estimate under this chapter; and
(2) the patient is eligible for Medicare coverage;
the provider facility shall provide a good faith estimate to the patient within five (5) business days based on available Medicare rates.

Sec. 17. (a) If a provider facility fails or refuses:
(1) to provide a good faith estimate as required by this chapter; or
(2) to provide notice on the provider facility's Internet web site as required under this chapter;
the insurance commissioner may, after notice and hearing under IC 4-21.5, impose on the provider facility a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars ($1,000) for each violation.
(b) A civil penalty collected under this section shall be deposited in the department of insurance fund established by IC 27-1-3-28.

SECTION 13. IC 27-2-25 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020]:

Chapter 25. Health Carrier Good Faith Estimates
Sec. 0.5. Nothing in this chapter prohibits:
(1) a self-funded health benefit plan that complies with the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.); or
(2) a:
   (A) self-insurance program established to provide group health coverage as described in IC 5-10-8-7(b); or
   (B) contract for health services, as described in IC 5-10-8-7(c);
from providing information requested by a practitioner or provider facility under this chapter.

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "coverage" means the right of an individual to receive:
(1) health care services; or
(2) payment or reimbursement for health care services; from a health carrier.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "covered individual" means an individual who is entitled to coverage from a health carrier.

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Sec. 2.5. As used in this chapter, "episode of care" means the medical care ordered to be provided for a specific medical procedure, condition, or illness.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "good faith estimate" means a health carrier's reasonable estimate of:

(1) the amount of the cost of a nonemergency health care service that the health carrier will:
   (A) pay for; or
   (B) reimburse to; a covered individual; or
(2) the applicable benefit limitations of the nonemergency health care service a covered individual is entitled to receive; that a health carrier provides upon request to a covered individual for whom a nonemergency health care service has been ordered.

Sec. 4. (a) As used in this chapter, "health carrier" means an entity:

(1) that is subject to this title and the administrative rules adopted under this title; and
(2) that enters into a contract to:
   (A) provide health care services;
   (B) deliver health care services;
   (C) arrange for health care services; or
   (D) pay for or reimburse any of the costs of health care services.

(b) The term includes the following:

(1) An insurer, as defined in IC 27-1-2-3(x), that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance, as defined in IC 27-8-5-1(a).
(2) A health maintenance organization, as defined in IC 27-13-1-19.
(3) An administrator (as defined in IC 27-1-25-1(a)) that is licensed under IC 27-1-25.
(4) A state employee health plan offered under IC 5-10-8.
(5) A short term insurance plan (as defined by IC 27-8-5.9-3).
(6) Any other entity that provides a plan of health insurance, health benefits, or health care services.

(c) The term does not include:

(1) an insurer that issues a policy of accident and sickness insurance;
(2) a limited service health maintenance organization (as defined in IC 27-13-34-4); or
(3) an administrator;
that only provides coverage for, or processes claims for, dental or vision care services.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "in network", when used in reference to a practitioner, means that the health care services provided by the practitioner are subject to a health carrier's network plan.

Sec. 6. (a) As used in this chapter, "network" means a group of provider facilities and practitioners that:

(1) provide health care services to covered individuals; and
(2) have agreed to, or are otherwise subject to, maximum limits on the prices for the health care services to be provided to the covered individuals.

(b) The term includes the following:

(1) A network described in subsection (a) that is established pursuant to a contract between an insurer providing coverage under a group health policy and:
   (A) individual provider facilities and practitioners;
   (B) a preferred provider organization; or
   (C) an entity that employs or represents providers, including:
      (i) an independent practice association; and
      (ii) a physician-hospital organization.

(2) A health maintenance organization, as defined in IC 27-13-1-19.

Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "network plan" means a plan of a health carrier that:

(1) requires a covered individual to receive; or
(2) creates incentives, including financial incentives, for a covered individual to receive;

health care services from one (1) or more providers that are under contract with, managed by, or owned by the health carrier.

Sec. 8. As used in this chapter, "nonemergency health care service" means a discrete service or series of services ordered by a practitioner for an episode of care for the:

(1) diagnosis;
(2) prevention;
(3) treatment;
(4) cure; or
(5) relief;

of a physical, mental, or behavioral health condition, illness, injury, or disease that is not provided on an emergency or urgent care basis.
Sec. 9. (a) As used in this chapter, "practitioner" means an individual or entity duly licensed or legally authorized to provide health care services.
(b) The term does not include the following:
   (1) A dentist licensed under IC 25-14.
   (2) An optometrist licensed under IC 25-24.
Sec. 9.5. As used in this chapter, "price" means the negotiated rate between the:
   (1) provider facility and practitioner; and
   (2) covered individual's primary health carrier;
minus the amount that the health carrier will pay.
Sec. 10. As used in this chapter, "provider" means:
   (1) a provider facility; or
   (2) a practitioner.
Sec. 11. As used in this chapter, "provider facility" means any of the following:
   (1) A hospital licensed under IC 16-21-2.
   (2) An ambulatory outpatient surgery center licensed under IC 16-21-2.
   (3) An abortion clinic licensed under IC 16-21-2.
   (4) A birthing center licensed under IC 16-21-2.
   (5) Except for an urgent care facility (as defined by IC 27-1-46-10.5), a facility that provides diagnostic services to the medical profession or the general public.
   (6) A laboratory where clinical pathology tests are carried out on specimens to obtain information about the health of a patient.
   (7) A facility where radiologic and electromagnetic images are made to obtain information about the health of a patient.
   (8) An infusion center that administers intravenous medications.
Sec. 12. (a) A covered individual may request from the health carrier a good faith estimate of:
   (1) the amount of the cost of the nonemergency health care service that the health carrier will:
      (A) pay for; or
      (B) reimburse to;
the covered individual; or
   (2) the applicable benefit limitations of the ordered nonemergency health care service a covered individual is entitled to receive from the health carrier.
(b) If:
(1) a health carrier provides coverage to a covered individual through a network plan; and
(2) the health carrier receives a request for a good faith estimate from a covered individual for whom a nonemergency health care service has been ordered;
the health carrier shall inform the covered individual whether the provider facility in which the nonemergency health care service will be provided is in network and whether each scheduled practitioner who may provide the nonemergency health care service is in network.
(c) A health carrier that receives a request from a covered individual patient under subsection (b) shall, not more than five (5) business days after receiving relevant information, provide to the individual a good faith estimate as described in section 14 of this chapter.
(d) A health carrier must ensure that a good faith estimate states that the estimate provided under this section is only valid for thirty (30) days and that:
(1) the amount that the health carrier will:
   (A) pay; or
   (B) reimburse;
   for or to the covered individual for the nonemergency health care services the individual receives; and
(2) the applicable benefit limitations of the nonemergency health care services the individual will receive;
may vary from the health carrier's good faith estimate based on the individual's medical needs.
(e) A health carrier may not charge an individual for information provided under this section.
(f) A practitioner and provider facility shall provide a health carrier with the information needed by the health carrier to comply with the requirements under this chapter not more than two (2) business days after receiving the request.
Sec. 13. A health carrier may provide a good faith estimate to an individual under this chapter:
(1) in a writing delivered to the individual;
(2) by electronic mail; or
(3) through a mobile application or other Internet web based method, if available;
according to the preference expressed by the individual.
Sec. 14. (a) A good faith estimate provided by a health carrier to an individual under this chapter must:
(1) in the case of an insurer or another health carrier that pays or reimburses the cost of health care services:
   (A) provide a summary of the services and material items that the good faith estimate is based on;
   (B) include a total figure that is a sum of the amounts referred to in clause (A); and
   (C) state the out-of-pocket costs the covered individual will incur, if any, beyond the amount that the health carrier will pay or reimburse; and

(2) in the case of a health maintenance organization or another health carrier that provides health care services:
   (A) provide a summary of the applicable benefit limitations of the health care services to which the covered individual is entitled; and
   (B) state the out-of-pocket costs the covered individual will incur, if any, beyond being provided the health care services referred to in clause (A).

(b) A practitioner and provider facility shall provide a health carrier with the information needed by the health carrier to comply with the requirements under this chapter not more than two (2) business days after receiving the request.

(c) A health carrier is not subject to the penalties under section 16 of this chapter if:
   (1) a provider facility or practitioner fails to provide the health carrier with the information as required under subsection (b);
   (2) the health carrier provides the individual with a good faith estimate based on any information that the health carrier has; and
   (3) the health carrier provides the individual with an updated good faith estimate after the provider facility or practitioner has provided the information required under subsection (b).

Sec. 15. A health carrier that provides an Internet web site for the use of its covered individuals shall ensure that the Internet web site includes a printed notice that:
   (1) is designed, lettered, and featured on the Internet web site so as to be conspicuous to and readable by any individual with normal vision who visits the Internet web site; and
   (2) states the following, or words to the same effect: "A covered individual may at any time ask the health carrier for an estimate of the amount the health carrier will pay for or reimburse to a covered individual for nonemergency health
care services that have been ordered for the covered individual or the applicable benefit limitations of the ordered nonemergency health care services a covered individual is entitled to receive from the health carrier. The law requires that an estimate be provided within 5 business days.

Sec. 16. (a) If a health carrier fails or refuses:
(1) to provide a good faith estimate as required by this chapter; or
(2) to provide notice on the health carrier's Internet web site as required by section 15 of this chapter;
the insurance commissioner may, after notice and hearing under IC 4-21.5, impose on the health carrier a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars ($1,000) for each day of noncompliance.

(b) A civil penalty collected under this section shall be deposited in the department of insurance fund established by IC 27-1-3-28.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

President of the Senate

President Pro Tempore

Governor of the State of Indiana

Date:  ___________________  Time:  ___________________