

State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 737

HOUSE BILL NO. 647

By Representatives Baum, Jernigan, Leatherwood, Lamberth, Burkhart, Clemmons

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1313

By Senator Bailey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 47, Chapter 18 and Section 63-2-102, relative to medical records.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-2-102, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting:

(a) For records other than those involving workers' compensation cases:

(1) The party requesting the patient's medical records in paper format is responsible to the provider or the provider's third-party release of information provider for the reasonable costs of copying and mailing the patient's records. Such reasonable costs must not exceed:

(A) Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for paper copies of medical records five (5) pages or less in length;

(B) Fifty cents (50¢) per page for each page copied after the first five (5) pages;

(C) The actual cost of mailing;

(D) For producing radiology images in hard copy, no more than twenty dollars (\$20.00) per printed film; and

(E) A certification or notary fee, if certification or notarization is requested, must be charged as a flat fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00);

(2) The party requesting the patient's records in electronic format is responsible to the provider or the provider's third-party release of information provider for the following fees:

(A) The reasonable fees for fulfilling a patient's request for the patient's own records are governed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 (42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq.), and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act (42 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.), and those acts implementing regulations, which must not exceed the cost of the following:

(i) Labor for copying the protected health information requested by the individual;

(ii) Supplies for creating the paper copy, or electronic media if the individual requests that the electronic copy be provided on portable media; and

(iii) Postage, when the individual has requested the copy or summary or explanation, be mailed; and

HB647

(B) For all other requesters, the total fees for electronic medical records provided via portable media, electronic mail, or medical record portal, must comply with the following:

(i) The total charges must be no more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for records ten (10) pages or less in length;

(ii) The total charges must be no more than twenty-five cents (25ϕ) per page for each page after the first ten (10) pages, up to ninety dollars (\$90.00);

(iii) The mailing costs and applicable taxes, if any, must be the actual mailing costs and applicable taxes;

(iv) The fee for producing electronic copies of radiology images must be no more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per request for CD, DVD, or USB, or fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per request for electronic files emailed or sent via medical record portal;

(v) A certification or notary fee, if certification or notarization is requested, must be charged as a flat fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00);

(vi) Charges for copying paper records or faxing paper records are subject to the limits set in subdivision (a)(1); and

(vii) The fees charged for reproducing records of patients involved in a claim or appeal of denial for social security disability benefits must be a flat fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00), only when the records are produced electronically;

(3) Upon request, a person providing records pursuant to § 63-2-101 shall provide the records in electronic form unless the records are not kept in electronic form in the usual course of business;

(4) A third-party release of information provider of record copying and related services is subject to the fee limits contained in this section and shall not impose a charge or fee for such service in excess of such fee limits;

(5) The fees charged for reproducing records of patients involved in a workers' compensation claim are as specified in § 50-6-204; and

(6) A healthcare provider shall not charge a fee for copying or notarizing a medical record when requested by the department of health pursuant to a complaint, inspection, or survey as set forth in § 63-1-117.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 647

PASSED: April 1, 2024

CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RANDY MCNALLY

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 22nd day of April 2024

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BILL LEE, GOVERNOR