

**SUBJECT:** Requiring hospitals to disclose cash price of certain health care services

**COMMITTEE:** Public Health — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 11 ayes — Klick, Guerra, Allison, Campos, Coleman, Collier, Jetton,  
Oliverson, Price, Smith, Zwiener

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Charles Miller, Texas 2036; Jason  
Baxter, Texas Association of Health Plans; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — Cameron Duncan, Texas Hospital Association

**DIGEST:** HB 1490 would require hospitals licensed under Health and Safety Code  
ch. 241 or owned or operated by the state or a state agency to disclose the  
hospital's cash price for each health care service it regularly provided.

The disclosure of cash prices would have to be made by posting the prices  
on the hospital's website or, if the hospital did not have a website,  
provided in writing on request to any person.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:** HB 1490 would improve price transparency for consumers by codifying in  
statute a federal rule that requires hospitals to disclose the cash price of  
certain health care services.

Currently, Texans lack access to transparent prices for hospital services,  
leaving patients without adequate information to make decisions regarding  
their health. The bill would increase Texans' access to hospital price  
information, empowering them to make more informed choices about  
their health care prior to receiving services. While federal rule already  
requires hospitals to disclose cash prices, HB 1490 is necessary to protect

patients from potential changes in federal rule, allowing Texas to maintain and enforce transparency efforts.

Any concerns about the bill requiring cash prices to be disclosed in writing could be addressed in a floor amendment.

**CRITICS  
SAY:**

HB 1490 would impose an administrative burden on hospitals by requiring them to provide a lengthy list of prices to any person who requested such information. Some hospitals do not always have the cash price available for each health care service due to a hospital's charity care policies, financial assistance policies, and uninsured discount policies. In addition, the bill could place hospitals in a difficult position if a patient experiencing a medical emergency requested a list of prices before hospital staff stabilized or treated the patient, potentially delaying treatment in violation of federal regulations.

**NOTES:**

The author intends to offer a floor amendment to HB 1490 that would remove the provision requiring a hospital that did not have a website to provide the cash prices for services in writing to any person on request.