

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 946

BY REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY

HEALTH: Provides relative to compliance with Federal requirements for healthcare cost publication

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1173.1(B) and enact R.S. 40:1173.2(5) and 1173.7, relative  
3 to the legislative intent of Louisiana healthcare consumers' right to know; to provide  
4 for changes in legislative intent; to provide for definitions, to provide for compliance  
5 with federal pricing regulations; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. RS. 40:1173.1(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §1173.1. Findings; legislative intent

9 \* \* \*

10 B. It is the intent of the legislature to improve transparency in prices and care  
11 quality measures by providing for the creation and maintenance of a useful and  
12 comprehensive health service information database comprised of information  
13 published by hospitals in compliance with requirements in 45 CFR Part 180 as  
14 detailed by R.S. 40:1173.7, sorted by provider and service. ~~that can~~ This database  
15 shall be publicly accessed in a manner that ensures protection of individuals'  
16 confidential health information and respects providers of care.

17 \* \* \*

18 §1173.2. Definitions

19 \* \* \*

1           (5) "Hospital pricing transparency requirements" means regulations found in  
2           45 CFR Part 180.

3           Section 3. R.S. 40:1173.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

4           §1173.7 Compliance with federal pricing transparency regulations

5           A. Definitions

6           (1) "Collection" means any of the following:

7           (a) Attempting to collect a debt from a patient or patient guarantor by  
8           referring the debt directly or indirectly to a debt collector, a collection agency, or  
9           other third party retained by or on behalf of the hospital.

10           (b) Suing the patient or patient guarantor or enforcing an arbitration or  
11           mediation clause in any hospital documents, including contracts, agreements,  
12           statements, or bills.

13           (c) Reporting to a consumer reporting agency.

14           (2) "Department" means the Louisiana Department of Health.

15           B. The department is tasked with annually verifying compliance of all  
16           healthcare providers with hospital pricing transparency requirements.

17           C. On or before January 1, 2027, and each January first thereafter the  
18           department shall report on its public website in a clear and conspicuous manner the  
19           names of all hospitals that have been found to not be in material compliance with  
20           hospital pricing transparency requirements.

21           D. For services yielded on or after January 1, 2027:

22           (1) A healthcare provider that is not in material compliance with hospital  
23           price transparency laws on the date that items or services are purchased from or  
24           provided to a patient shall not initiate or pursue a collection action against the patient  
25           or patient guarantor for a debt owed for the items or services.

26           (2) If a patient believes that a hospital was not in material compliance with  
27           hospital price transparency laws at the time that items or services were purchased by  
28           or provided to the patient and the hospital takes a collection action against the patient  
29           or patient guarantor the patient or patient guarantor may file suit to determine if:

1           (a) The hospital was materially out of compliance with hospital pricing  
2           transparency laws at the time that items or services were provided to that patient.

3           (b) The noncompliance is related to the items or services provided to the  
4           patient.

5           (3) The hospital shall not take a collection action against a patient or patient  
6           guarantor while a lawsuit described in this section is pending.

7           (4) If a judge or jury finds the hospital to be materially out of compliance  
8           with hospital pricing transparency requirements the hospital shall do any of the  
9           following:

10           (a) Refund the payer any amount of the debt the payer has paid and shall pay  
11           a penalty to the patient or patient guarantor in an amount equal to the total amount  
12           of the debt.

13           (b) Dismiss or cause to be dismissed any court action with prejudice and pay  
14           any attorney fees and costs incurred by the patient or patient guarantor relating to the  
15           action.

16           (c) Remove or cause to be removed from the patient's or patient guarantor's  
17           credit report any report made to a consumer reporting agency relating to the debt.

18           (d) Notify the department of the material noncompliance with hospital pricing  
19           transparency requirements.

20           E. Nothing in this Section is to be construed to:

21           (1) Prevent a hospital from billing a patient, patient guarantor, or third-party  
22           payer, including a health insurer, for items or services provided to the patient.

23           (2) Require a hospital to refund any payment made to the hospital for items  
24           or services provided to the patient, so long as no collection action is taken in  
25           violation of this Section.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 946 Original

2026 Regular Session

Mandie Landry

**Abstract:** Provides clarification of legislative intent relative to healthcare consumers' right to know, for penalties for noncompliance with Federal requirements for healthcare cost transparency, and for definitions relevant to federal price transparency regulations.

Present law provides for the legislature to improve transparency in prices and care quality measures by creating an information database that can be accessed by the public while insuring protection of confidential information.

Proposed law provides that the information database be comprised of information published by hospitals in compliance with 45 CFR Part 180.

Proposed law defines hospital pricing transparency requirements, collection, and department.

Proposed law creates penalties for healthcare providers that are not in material compliance with hospital transparency laws.

Proposed law provides patients with instructions of what to do if they receive services from noncompliant healthcare providers whom take a collection action against the patient.

Proposed law provides that if a judge or jury finds a hospital to be materially noncompliant that the hospital is responsible for refunding the debt payer, paying court costs, and removing any report made to a consumer reporting agency relating to the debt.

(Amends R.S. 40:1173.1(B) and Adds R.S. 40:1173.2(5) and 1173.7)