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## DIGEST

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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)