



*Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments**

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Legislative Service Commission

Sub. H.B. 331

125th General Assembly
(S. Health, Human Services, and Aging)

Amendments adopted by the Senate committee declare an emergency and make changes to Ohio's medical records law. The amendments change the fees that may be charged for copies of medical records, reorganize portions of the law, and make other changes. With the amendments, the bill does the following:

Emergency clause

Declares an emergency, but delays the effective date of amendments to the mammography screening law so that only the provisions dealing with medical record fees go into immediate effect.

Medical record fees

Extends the operation of the fee provisions, which are to cease at the end of this year, to December 31, 2008.

Creates two fee schedules for copies of medical records. One schedule to be used when the requester is a patient or patient's personal representative and the other to be used for any other requester. Also defines "patient's personal representative" and "authorized person" for the purposes of the medical records law.

Increases the fees that may be charged for copies of medical records to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the last three years.

Requires the Director of Health to adjust the fee schedules annually beginning not later than January 31, 2006 to reflect increases or decreases in the CPI.

Requires the Department of Health to publish the adjusted fee schedules on its Internet web site.

* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate floor.

Free copies of medical records

Clarifies that only the following persons or entities are entitled to one free copy of a patient's medical record: (1) The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, (2) the Ohio Industrial Commission, (3) the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, (4) the Ohio Attorney General, and (5) a patient or patient's personal representative if the medical record is necessary to support a Social Security disability claim or an application for Supplemental Security Income.

Contracting for different fees

Clarifies that health care providers and medical records companies may contract with certain persons or entities for fees that differ from those in the fee schedules.

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