

HB123

EMPOWERING ALASKANS' HEALTHCARE DECISIONS

What prompted this bill?



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- ✚ Alaska has the highest healthcare costs in the nation
 - No real regulation/control/justification
 - We pay thousands more per person annually than Lower 48
- ✚ Few people know what any given service will cost them
 - Feel helpless/choiceless in their own healthcare
- ✚ Transparency has been shown to trigger competition in the market place*
 - And subsequently price decreases

* key studies available upon request or on BASIS HB123 website

Bill summary

- +** **Full cost** for most common healthcare services will be posted in Dr. office/online & at DHSS
 - Healthcare **providers** must post top 25
 - Healthcare **facilities** must post top 50
- +** DHSS to collect & oversee information
 - Absorbed into normal workload at **negligible extra cost** to DHSS
- +** Cost sheets due by Jan 31 each year
- +** Fine for noncompliance
 - \$50/day after March 31
 - Not to exceed \$2,500

What will HB123 do?

- + Increase transparency between insurer & provider, provider & patient
- + Empower consumers to make educated treatment choices
- + Highlight monetary inequalities for similar services
- + Spur consumers to question healthcare costs
- + Promote fair marketplace competition

What won't HB123 do?

- + Provide discounted cost information
 - Patients without insurance are often eligible for sliding scale (income-based) prices
 - Insurance companies have in-network discounts
- + Compel federally funded hospitals (e.g., VA, Tribal Health) to comply
- + Compel long-term care facilities (nursing homes) to comply
- + Infringe upon privacy laws between insurers & providers
- + Cost comparisons
 - It's still up to the consumer to "shop around," but this bill aims to make that process easier.
- + Compel insurers to post rate discounts for insured services at in-network providers

Thank you!

QUESTIONS?