

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
DHS 12/18/2009

LRB Number	09-0920/2	Introduction Number	AB-0539	Estimate Type	Original
Description Disclosure of information by health care providers, insurers, and governmental self-insured plans; requiring acceptance by a health care provider of a payment amount in certain circumstances; and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires health care providers to provide estimated cost information to a patient if the patient is recommended, referred to, or prescribed a health care service, diagnostic test, or procedure for which the charge exceeds \$500.00 or any higher amount that the Department of Health Services (DHS) promulgates by rule. The bill requires DHS to biennially adjust the dollar amount specified for minimum cost through administrative rule. DHS would be able to establish and biennially adjust the minimum charge amount as required in this bill using current staff and resources. Costs to DHS are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed in the agency's budget.

This bill requires self-insured health plans to provide information regarding pre-certification, coverage, benefits, and cost-sharing information as well as a summary of coverage of specific medical conditions at an enrollee's request. As an employer who offers a self-insured plan to its employees, DHS would be governed by this provision. The Department will incur administrative costs to provide this information to employees who request it. These costs can be absorbed in the agency's budget.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications