
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Assembly Bill 639

Assembly Amendment 1

2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 639

Assembly Bill 639 requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to provide, as a pilot project, to hospitals located in Barron, Burnett, Dunn, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, and Washburn Counties, reimbursement for housing patients for purposes of emergency detention in an amount determined by DHS up to 80 percent of the difference between the hospital's average cost per bed per day and the average rate received per bed per day calculated by averaging the rate received under Medicare, Medical Assistance, and other insurance. County health departments must cover the remaining portion of each hospital's reimbursement.

In order to qualify for the pilot program reimbursement, each participating hospital must report to the county health department its average cost per bed per day and the average rate per bed per day. Each county health department receiving that information from hospitals shall collect the information and then submit it to DHS.

The bill also provides that hospitals are not required to participate in the pilot program. Any hospital located in any of the participating counties may opt out of the program and will not be required, for purposes of the pilot program, to provide the cost or rate information to the county health department.

Under the bill, only hospital services provided on or after July 1, 2021, are eligible for reimbursement through the pilot program.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 provides that the state share of the reimbursement amount must be 80 percent, instead of up to 80 percent, of the difference between the average cost per bed per day and the average rate received by the hospital per bed per day.

The amendment also changes all of the bill's references to "county health departments" to "county department of human services or county department of community programs."

BILL HISTORY

Representative Stafsholt offered Assembly Amendment 1 on January 23, 2020. On January 28, 2020, the Assembly Committee on Mental Health voted to recommend adoption of the amendment on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0, and passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 4.

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