

ASSEMBLY, No. 3116

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Limits rescheduling, cancellation, and no-show fees providers of health care services may charge in certain instances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/5/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning fees charged by providers of health care
2 services and supplementing chapter 8 of Title 56 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. a. As used in this section, "provider of health care services"
9 shall have the meaning as defined in subsection i. of section 1 of
10 P.L.1985, c.236 (C.17:48E-1).

11 b. No provider of health care services shall charge a new or
12 returning patient any fee for cancelling or rescheduling more than
13 24 hours in advance of an appointment. A provider of health care
14 services may charge a new or returning patient a fee of not more
15 than \$25 for cancelling or rescheduling less than 24 hours in
16 advance of an appointment, or failing to appear at a scheduled
17 appointment, if the patient:

18 (1) was given notification, orally or in writing, at the time when
19 the appointment was made that a fee would apply; and

20 (2) had previously canceled or rescheduled less than 24 hours in
21 advance of an appointment made for the same or a similar reason,
22 or failed to appear at a scheduled appointment, on two, separate,
23 previous occasions in the past six months.

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25 2. A person who violates the provisions of section 1 of P.L. ,
26 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be
27 liable to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for the first violation,
28 and not more than \$1,000 for the second and any subsequent
29 violation. The civil penalty shall be collected pursuant to the
30 "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10
31 et seq.), in a summary proceeding before the municipal court having
32 jurisdiction.

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34 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
35 following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill would prohibit a health care provider from charging a
41 patient a fee for rescheduling or cancelling an appointment more
42 than 24 hours in advance. In addition, the bill would prohibit the
43 assessment of fees for cancelling or rescheduling less than 24 hours
44 in advance of an appointment, or failing to appear at a scheduled
45 appointment, unless the patient: (1) was given notification at the
46 time when the appointment was made that a fee would apply, and
47 (2) previously canceled or rescheduled an appointment for the same
48 or a similar reason less than 24 hours in advance, or failed to appear

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1 at a scheduled appointment, on two previous occasions in the past
2 six months.

3 Under the bill, the maximum fee that could be assessed for
4 rescheduling, cancelling, or failing to appear at a scheduled
5 appointment would be \$25.

6 The penalty for a violation of the bill would be up to \$500 for a
7 first offense and up to \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense.