

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill  
3 No. 245 entitled “An act relating to hospital costs and disclosure of health care  
4 provider affiliations” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting  
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 9416a is added to read:

8 § 9416a. NOTICE TO PATIENTS OF NEW AFFILIATION

9 (a) As used in this section:

10 (1) “Affiliation” means a relationship between one or more health care  
11 providers and a hospital or hospital system in which the health care provider or  
12 providers are employed by the hospital or hospital system or are under a  
13 professional services agreement that permits the hospital or hospital system to  
14 bill on behalf of the provider or providers.

15 (2) “Hospital system” means a network of health care facilities owned  
16 by or otherwise affiliated with a hospital.

17 (b) Within 30 days following the effective date of a transaction that results  
18 in a new affiliation between one or more health care providers and a hospital or  
19 hospital system, the hospital or hospital system shall provide written notice of  
20 the new affiliation to each patient served by the health care provider or

1 providers during the previous three-year period. The notice shall be provided  
2 by first class mail and shall include the following information:

3 (1) a statement that the health care provider or providers are now  
4 affiliated with the hospital or hospital system;

5 (2) the hospital or hospital system’s name, its business address, and the  
6 telephone number for its patient financial services department;

7 (3) a statement indicating that the change in affiliation may affect the  
8 out-of-pocket costs to be incurred by the patient, depending on the patient’s  
9 health insurance plan and the services provided; and

10 (4) a recommendation that the patient contact his or her insurance  
11 company with specific questions or to determine the his or her actual financial  
12 liability.

13 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

15 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating  
16 to notice to patients of new health care provider affiliations”

17  
18 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

19 \_\_\_\_\_

20 Senator \_\_\_\_\_

21 FOR THE COMMITTEE