

FILED APR 12 1988

SENATE FILE 2337  
BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
(formerly 55B 2269)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to physicians' charges for services to  
2 beneficiaries of health insurance under Title XVIII of the  
3 federal Social Security Act, providing for the collection and  
4 analysis of information, imposing fees, establishing a special  
5 indigent patient health care trust fund, providing other  
6 properly related matters, and providing an effective date.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SF 2337

1 Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. Many senior citizens  
2 with limited incomes find it difficult or impossible to locate  
3 physicians willing to accept Medicare assignment as payment in  
4 full for services, and this places these senior citizens at  
5 risk of further impoverishment because of medical expenses.  
6 The Iowa medical society is to be commended for seeking to  
7 establish, with the assistance of the department of elder  
8 affairs and area agencies on aging, a voluntary program to  
9 encourage physicians to accept Medicare assignments as payment  
10 in full for services to low-income Medicare patients. There  
11 is a need, however, to track the impact of this program in  
12 meeting the needs of low-income Medicare patients to receive  
13 affordable health care. This tracking requires the collection  
14 and analysis of information on physician practices with  
15 respect to Medicare assignment, including breakdowns by  
16 geographic region and by medical specialization.

17 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 147.82A INFORMATION ON ACCEPTANCE  
18 OF MEDICARE ASSIGNMENT.

19 1. The department shall collect and analyze information on  
20 the number of physicians in Iowa in each of the following  
21 categories, including breakdowns by geographic region and by  
22 medical specialization:

23 a. Physicians who accept Medicare assignment as payment in  
24 full for all Medicare patients.

25 b. Physicians who accept Medicare assignment as payment in  
26 full for all Medicare patients with income and resources below  
27 the level established by the department of elder affairs as  
28 provided in subsection 2.

29 c. Physicians who treat at least one Medicare patient  
30 during a calendar year.

31 2. The department of elder affairs shall determine for  
32 purposes of subsection 1 and section 147.82B the level of  
33 income and resources below which payments in addition to  
34 Medicare copayments and deductibles would constitute a  
35 hardship and shall notify the department of public health of

1 the determination.

2 3. The information developed by the department pursuant to  
3 this section shall be provided at least annually to the  
4 governor and the general assembly and to other interested  
5 persons upon request.

6 4. As used in this section and section 147.82B:

7 a. "Medicare" means the program of health insurance  
8 established under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security  
9 Act.

10 b. "Medicare assignment" means payment by Medicare of  
11 charges for health care services provided to Medicare  
12 patients.

13 c. "Medicare patient" means a patient who is a beneficiary  
14 under Medicare.

15 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 147.82B ADDITIONAL FEES FOR CERTAIN  
16 PHYSICIANS -- TRUST FUND.

17 1. In addition to the fees imposed pursuant to sections  
18 147.25 and 147.80, effective January 1, 1991, an annual fee of  
19 one thousand dollars is imposed on each person licensed to  
20 practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and  
21 surgery, or osteopathy who has served at least one Medicare  
22 patient in the preceding calendar year but did not during that  
23 calendar year accept Medicare assignment as payment in full  
24 for either all Medicare patients or all Medicare patients with  
25 income and resources below the level established by the  
26 department of elder affairs pursuant to section 147.82A. The  
27 additional fee shall be paid at the time the license or  
28 renewal fee is paid.

29 However, the additional fee imposed by this section shall  
30 not take effect if at least eighty percent of all persons  
31 licensed to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic  
32 medicine and surgery, and osteopathy who served at least one  
33 Medicare patient in the preceding calendar year did during  
34 that calendar year accept Medicare assignment as payment in  
35 full for either all Medicare patients or all Medicare patients

1 with income and resources below the established level.

2 2. The board of medical examiners, in cooperation with the  
3 department, shall establish procedures for identifying which  
4 of the persons licensed to practice medicine and surgery,  
5 osteopathic medicine and surgery, or osteopathy are required  
6 to pay the additional fee imposed by subsection 1 and for the  
7 collection of the fee.

8 3. The fees collected shall be paid to the treasurer of  
9 state and deposited in the special indigent patient health  
10 care trust fund, which fund is created in the treasury of the  
11 state. The moneys in the fund shall be used by the  
12 department, after legislative appropriation, for services  
13 designed to improve the access of low-income persons to  
14 affordable health care.

15 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the special  
16 indigent patient health care trust fund shall not revert to  
17 the general fund of the state at the end of any annual or  
18 biennial period and the investment proceeds earned from the  
19 balance of the fund shall be credited to the fund and used for  
20 the purposes provided for in this section.

21 EXPLANATION

22 This bill requires the Iowa department of public health to  
23 collect and analyze information relating to physicians'  
24 acceptance of Medicare assignment as payment in full for  
25 services provided to Medicare patients.

26 The bill also provides that beginning January 1, 1991,  
27 physicians who do not accept Medicare assignment as payment in  
28 full, at least for low-income Medicare patients, must pay an  
29 annual fee of \$1,000 for deposit in a trust fund to be used,  
30 after legislative appropriation, for services designed to  
31 improve the access of low-income persons to affordable health  
32 care.

33 However, if eighty percent of physicians serving Medicare  
34 patients do accept Medicare assignment as payment in full, the  
35 additional fee is not imposed.

SIMILAR TO LSB 8429SC  
SUCCESSOR TO SSB 2269 (LSB 8473SC)

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35

LSB

BRUNER, CH.  
REIDINGER  
MURPHY

SSB 2269  
WAYS & MEANS  
HARD

SENATE FILE 2337  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS BILL)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to physicians' charges for services to  
2 beneficiaries of health insurance under Title XVIII of the  
3 federal Social Security Act, providing for the collection and  
4 analysis of information, imposing fees, establishing a special  
5 indigent patient health care trust fund, providing other  
6 properly related matters, and providing an effective date.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24

1 Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. Many senior citizens  
2 with limited incomes find it difficult or impossible to locate  
3 physicians willing to accept Medicare assignment as payment in  
4 full for services, and this places these senior citizens at  
5 risk of further impoverishment because of medical expenses.  
6 The Iowa medical society is to be commended for seeking to  
7 establish, with the assistance of the department of elder  
8 affairs and area agencies on aging, a voluntary program to  
9 encourage physicians to accept Medicare assignments as payment  
10 in full for services to low-income Medicare patients. There  
11 is a need, however, to track the impact of this program in  
12 meeting the needs of low-income Medicare patients to receive  
13 affordable health care. This tracking requires the collection  
14 and analysis of information on physician practices with  
15 respect to Medicare assignment, including breakdowns by  
16 geographic region and by medical specialization.

17 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 147.82A INFORMATION ON ACCEPTANCE  
18 OF MEDICARE ASSIGNMENT.

19 1. The department shall collect and analyze information on  
20 the number of physicians in Iowa in each of the following  
21 categories, including breakdowns by geographic region and by  
22 medical specialization:

23 a. Physicians who accept Medicare assignment as payment in  
24 full for all Medicare patients.

25 b. Physicians who accept Medicare assignment as payment in  
26 full for all Medicare patients with income and resources below  
27 the level established by the department of elder affairs as  
28 provided in subsection 2.

29 c. Physicians who treat at least one Medicare patient  
30 during a calendar year.

31 2. The department of elder affairs shall determine for  
32 purposes of subsection 1 and section 147.82B the level of  
33 income and resources below which payments in addition to  
34 Medicare copayments and deductibles would constitute a  
35 hardship and shall notify the department of public health of

1 the determination.

2 3. The information developed by the department pursuant to  
3 this section shall be provided at least annually to the  
4 governor and the general assembly and to other interested  
5 persons upon request.

6 4. As used in this section and section 147.82B:

7 a. "Medicare" means the program of health insurance  
8 established under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security  
9 Act.

10 b. "Medicare assignment" means payment by Medicare of  
11 charges for health care services provided to Medicare  
12 patients.

13 c. "Medicare patient" means a patient who is a beneficiary  
14 under Medicare.

15 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 147.82B ADDITIONAL FEES FOR CERTAIN  
16 PHYSICIANS -- TRUST FUND.

17 1. In addition to the fees imposed pursuant to sections  
18 147.25 and 147.80, effective January 1, 1991, an annual fee of  
19 one thousand dollars is imposed on each person licensed to  
20 practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and  
21 surgery, or osteopathy who has served at least one Medicare  
22 patient in the preceding calendar year but did not during that  
23 calendar year accept Medicare assignment as payment in full  
24 for either all Medicare patients or all Medicare patients with  
25 income and resources below the level established by the  
26 department of elder affairs pursuant to section 147.82A. The  
27 additional fee shall be paid at the time the license or  
28 renewal fee is paid.

29 However, the additional fee imposed by this section shall  
30 not take effect if at least eighty percent of all persons  
31 licensed to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic  
32 medicine and surgery, and osteopathy who served at least one  
33 Medicare patient in the preceding calendar year did during  
34 that calendar year accept Medicare assignment as payment in  
35 full for either all Medicare patients or all Medicare patients

1 with income and resources below the established level.

2 2. The board of medical examiners, in cooperation with the  
3 department, shall establish procedures for identifying which  
4 of the persons licensed to practice medicine and surgery,  
5 osteopathic medicine and surgery, or osteopathy are required  
6 to pay the additional fee imposed by subsection 1 and for the  
7 collection of the fee.

8 3. The fees collected shall be paid to the treasurer of  
9 state and deposited in the special indigent patient health  
10 care trust fund, which fund is created in the treasury of the  
11 state. The moneys in the fund shall be used by the  
12 department, after legislative appropriation, for services  
13 designed to improve the access of low-income persons to  
14 affordable health care.

15 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the special  
16 indigent patient health care trust fund shall not revert to  
17 the general fund of the state at the end of any annual or  
18 biennial period and the investment proceeds earned from the  
19 balance of the fund shall be credited to the fund and used for  
20 the purposes provided for in this section.

21 EXPLANATION

22 This bill requires the Iowa department of public health to  
23 collect and analyze information relating to physicians'  
24 acceptance of Medicare assignment as payment in full for  
25 services provided to Medicare patients.

26 The bill also provides that beginning January 1, 1991,  
27 physicians who do not accept Medicare assignment as payment in  
28 full, at least for low-income Medicare patients, must pay an  
29 annual fee of \$1,000 for deposit in a trust fund to be used,  
30 after legislative appropriation, for services designed to  
31 improve the access of low-income persons to affordable health  
32 care.

33 However, if eighty percent of physicians serving Medicare  
34 patients do accept Medicare assignment as payment in full, the  
35 additional fee is not imposed.

SIMILAR TO LSB 8429SC

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35

LSB 8473SC 72

jw/sc/14