

MICROFILM DIVIDER

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SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

22/10

2007 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2210

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2210

Senate Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 1-24-07

Recorder Job Number: 1785, 1830

Committee Clerk Signature

Mary K. Monson

Minutes:

Senator J. Lee, Chairman, opened the hearing on SB 2210 relating to the amount of late payment charges and finance charges on medical bills.

Senator Erbele chaired the hearing.

Senator J. Lee introduced SB 2210 saying this was a result of work that was done in conference committee in the previous session. There are no references to interest rate or late fees. All this has done is make it more clear in separate sections of statute what is considered a medical bill and what is not.

There was no more testimony in support.

John Risch (United Transportation Union) said they followed this last session and commended Senator J. Lee on the good work she has done. The only suggestion he said he would make was on page 3 with the new language in 5a. He suggested capping both the medical services provider and hospitals at \$25 a month.

Senator Dever reminded Mr. Risch that was a major point of contention last session.

Mr. Risch said that often times there are large medical bills incurred in clinics as well as hospitals. If you don't have insurance coverage and are required to pay that, it is challenging.

There was no neutral testimony.

The hearing on SB 2210 was closed.

The committee was interested in testing the Risch amendment.

Senator J. Lee said they would hold off doing anything until an amendment was drafted.

Job #1830

Senator Warner moved the amendment presented by Mr. Risch.

The motion was seconded by Senator Heckaman.

Discussion followed that medical providers should be treated the same as hospitals.

Roll call vote 5-1-0. Amendment accepted.

Senator Warner moved a Do Pass on SB 2210 as amended.

Motion seconded by Senator Heckaman.

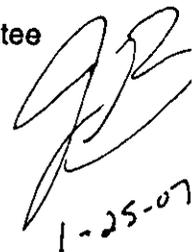
Roll call vote 6-0-0. Carrier is Senator J. Lee.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SB 2210

Page 3, Line 7, after "percent" insert "or twenty-five dollars"

70223.0301
Title.0400

Adopted by the Human Services Committee
January 24, 2007



Handwritten signature and date: 1-25-07

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2210

Page 3, line 7, after "percent" insert "or twenty-five dollars"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2210: Human Services Committee (Sen. J. Lee, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2210 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 3, line 7, after "percent" insert "or twenty-five dollars"

Renumber accordingly

2007 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

SB 2210

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SB 2210

House Human Services Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 21, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3569

Committee Clerk Signature

Judy Schock

Minutes:

Chairman Price: We will open the hearing on SB 2210. Senator Lee had a commitment and could not be here this morning. She did supply the amendment. The only real goal she had in this bill was to physically clean up the statute a little bit and put them together in the same plate. See attached.

Shelly Peterson, with ND Long Term Care Associations: We would just like to go on record supporting SB 2210 as amended.

Representative Kaldor questions the 25.00 with **Ms Peterson** about the last session.

John Risch, with the United States Transportation Union: I would like to commend Senator Lee for the bill and would like to encourage you to not adopt the amendment. If you were to adopt it specifically just apply it to long term care and not to medical providers, and goes through the interest rate for people with out a cap is a hardship. Or put a cap on it.

Representative Conrad: I have had complaints about the states payments are late.

Barb Fischer, with the Department of Human Services: Yes, we are behind on paper claims, because of the problems with changes. HIPPA has slowed us down. We are still processing claims at a 92 % rate in 32 days. We have a good processing rate. The complaints you hear I am sure are the 8% we are back logged on.

Representative Conrad: Should the state not be paying late charges? It would seem fair.

Do you have a projected date for correcting it?

Ms Fischer: We are looking at cross over as being publicly completed with in the month.

Chairman Price: Anyone else wanting to testify for SB 2210? We will close the hearing on SB 2210.

Chairman Price: Take out SB 2210 for discussion and possible action.

Representative Porter: Having lived this dream. When Sharon Lee did come to at least two of the sub committee meetings, we did agree on medical collections needs its own chapter in century code. I would move the amendments, seconded by **Representative Pietsch**.

Chairman Price: asks for discussion.

Representative Kaldor: I do have concerns relative to Mr. Riesch's testimony. I don't recall a discussion on long term care facilities were the biggest reason for this amendment. The 25.00 dollars is not in existing law. That may have been an amendment on the Senate side.

Representative Conrad: To me this makes sense and may be a better bill.

Representative Kaldor: If this is Mr. John Reisch's amendment it really goes farther than what he was talking about. It isn't consistent with this amendment the senate passed.

Representative Porter: When this was looked at last time we had clinics, dental clinics, dentists, physicians, long term care, and anyone who falls under the definition of medical services provider. We agreed on 1% interest last time. They use their low interest provider and not pay any more. It was a huge financial cost of collection burden on these medical providers. People were out buying other things instead of paying their medical bills. The reason that the change is back in the bill is because the same individual that was against it last session had it amended in the senate, and the senate agreed to it. I move a do pass as amended, seconded by **Representative Uglem**.

Chairman Price: asks for discussion.

The committee questions John Reisch's suggestion to put something specifically in for nursing homes to make that different, and he said he is doing the amendment to change it back. What goes back to last session was that general discussion of should they have extended credit for medical services. It covers and protects the debt accumulation. We closed the loop hole that allows the clinic to go outside of this, make a separate arrangement with a patient, charging them 18% with no cap. The compromise was to get to what we have now in this amended bill was we closed the loop hole on this side. We put a 1% no cap situation in place. The patients technically saw a 7% reduction in interest for a year. They used the max a credit card allowed. The hospitals that were here testifying and had stand alone clinics that were under their umbrella, testified that they were separate in their billing. Do we understand the hospital charges 1% with a maximum of 25.00 dollars interest per month? All others providers charge 1% per month with no cap. These are bills they did not plan to incur.

The vote was taken with 12 yeas 0 nays and 0 absent. **Representative Porter** will carry the bill to the floor.

70223.0401
Title.0500

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator J. Lee
February 14, 2007

**House Amendments to Engrossed SB 2210 (70223.0401) - Human Services Committee
02/21/2007**

Page 3, line 9, remove "or twenty-five dollars"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2/21
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House HUMAN SERVICES SB 2210 Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken None Amendment

Motion Made By Rep. Porter Seconded By Rep. Pietsch

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Clara Sue Price – Chairman			Kari L Conrad		
Vonnie Pietsch – Vice Chairman			Lee Kaldor		
Chuck Damschen			Louise Potter		
Patrick R. Hatlestad			Jasper Schneider		
Curt Hofstad					
Todd Porter					
Gerry Uglen					
Robin Weisz					

Total (Yes) 12 "Click here to type Yes Vote" No 8 "Click here to type No Vote"

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2210, as engrossed: Human Services Committee (Rep. Price, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2210
was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 3, line 9, remove "or twenty-five dollars"

Renumber accordingly