

During the 2026 General Assembly Session, legislators sought to address patients being surprised by high, out-of-pocket medical bills for services like nonemergency medical transportation that they didn't fully understand in advance. This document provides a summary of the changes to law and provides background and guidance to assist you in compliance.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Brent Rawlings [brawlings@vhha.com](mailto:brawlings@vhha.com) or Julie Dime [jdime@vhha.com](mailto:jdime@vhha.com).

## Summary

### CREATES NEW LAW

**HB1115 (Nivar)** requires a nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) provider or the medical care facility prearranging transport through such a provider, prior to providing such transportation services to a patient, to provide the patient or the patient's representative with a standardized disclosure form of all associated fees or other charges for which the patient will be responsible for such transportation services. The legislation also requires that NEMT providers provide the medical care facility with the required form. **These provisions have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2027.** Effective July 1, 2026, the legislation directs the Department of Health to develop and publish a standardized disclosure form on its website by October 1, 2026.

## Action Required

Evaluate the need to incorporate a pre-transport disclosure step into discharge and care coordination workflows for any nonemergency medical transportation arranged. Before scheduling a ride, the hospital must ensure the patient or their representative receives a standardized fee disclosure form that's developed by the Virginia Department of Health and supplied by the transportation provider that clearly outlines all potential charges and indicates that the listed price reflects the full, undiscounted cost. Hospitals will need to update internal policies, staff training, and documentation processes to confirm this disclosure is provided in advance and to retain proof of compliance. Additionally, hospitals must coordinate with contracted transportation vendors to obtain compliant disclosure forms and ensure they are used consistently.

## Background Information

There remain growing concerns from legislators about patients receiving unexpected, and often significant, bills for ambulance services and nonemergency medical transportation, particularly during discharge or interfacility transfers. The patron's intent was to establish a consumer protection measure reliant on informed consent, ensuring patients are aware of transportation costs before services are arranged so they can make more informed decisions or explore alternatives. During the legislative process, VHHA worked with the patron and stakeholders to find a balanced approach that limits applicability to private pay NEMTs, places responsibility in developing the disclosure forms on transportation providers rather than hospitals, allows flexibility in the methods of providing notice to patients, and includes a delayed implementation timeline to support operation readiness.

## Statutory Text

(NOTE: The language in *italics* and ~~strike through~~ are the only changes to the law. All other language and requirements under the law remain unchanged.)

### HB1115

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered **32.1-137.05:1** as follows:

**§ 32.1-137.05:1. Nonemergency medical transportation providers; fee disclosure.**

A. As used in this section, "nonemergency medical transportation provider" means any person who exclusively transports passengers for compensation to, from, or between medical care facilities or providers, unless such service is provided through Medicare or the state plan for medical assistance.

*B. The nonemergency medical transportation provider or the medical care facility prearranging transport through a nonemergency medical transportation provider shall provide disclosure of all associated fees or other charges for which the patient will be responsible to the patient or the patient's representative prior to the prearrangement of nonemergency medical transportation on a standardized form established by the Department. Such form shall include a statement indicating that the total cost for transportation services on the disclosure reflects the cost without insurance or discounted rates. The nonemergency medical transportation provider or medical care facility may provide such form through a method reasonably expected to provide advance notice to patients, including a brochure, rate sheet, invoice, or website.*

*C. Any nonemergency medical transportation provider who contracts or otherwise prearranges with a medical care facility to provide nonemergency medical transportation shall provide such medical care facility with a form that satisfies the requirements of subsection B prior to the prearrangement of any nonemergency medical transportation. No medical care facility shall be required to produce a form that satisfies the requirements of subsection B on behalf of a nonemergency medical transportation provider.*

**2. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.**

**3. That the Department of Health shall develop and publish on its website a standardized form for disclosure of fees by nonemergency medical transportation providers that satisfies the requirements of § 32.1-137.05:1 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, by October 1, 2026.**

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