

SENATE BILL No. 237

By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

2-12

1 AN ACT concerning healthcare providers; relating to uncompensated care;
2 requiring the secretary of health and environment to establish a task
3 force for the study and reporting thereof.
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5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) The secretary of health and environment, in
7 coordination with the Kansas hospital association, Kansas medical society,
8 community care network of Kansas and other private and public
9 stakeholders as deemed appropriate by the secretary, shall establish a task
10 force to develop a plan to measure and report uncompensated care
11 provided by Kansas healthcare providers and hospitals when
12 reimbursement for care provided to a patient is not collected.

13 (b) As used in this section:

14 (1) "Charity care" means expenses for care for which the hospital
15 never expects to be reimbursed.

16 (2) "Bad debt" means expenses incurred when a hospital cannot
17 obtain reimbursement for services because the patient is unable or
18 unwilling to pay for such services.

19 (3) "Uncompensated care" means the sum of bad debt and charity
20 care expenses.

21 (c) The task force shall identify and research data elements that are
22 already available in order to minimize administrative burdens on
23 healthcare providers and hospitals.

24 (d) Each such report shall include such data for the then-current
25 calendar year and historical data for the 10 years immediately preceding
26 such year, except that such historical data shall not include data prior to
27 calendar year 2018.

28 (e) Such report shall be submitted to the house of representatives
29 committee on health and human services and the senate committee on
30 public health and welfare, or any successor committees, on or before
31 January 9, 2023, and on or before the first day of the regular session of the
32 legislature each year thereafter.

33 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
34 publication in the statute book.