
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EXCISE TAX ON HEALTH CARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that all residents of
2 this State should have access to affordable, quality health
3 care. Hawaii has prided itself on its near-universal health
4 coverage under the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act, but the
5 uninsured population is growing. It has been reported that in
6 2002, more than 27,000 uninsured patients were treated in
7 community health care centers. This figure is up sixty-seven
8 per cent from 1997 and twenty per cent from 2001. Sixteen per
9 cent of uninsured patients admit to never paying their bill
10 after visiting community health centers, clinics, hospitals, and
11 emergency rooms. The unpaid bills put more stress on an already
12 overburdened health care system.

13 Act 247, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, enacted the county
14 surcharge on state tax at a rate of up to one-half per cent of
15 gross proceeds or gross income (for excise tax) and value of
16 property and services (for use tax) to finance mass transit.
17 The surcharge applies to health care services. The legislature



1 further finds that increasing the cost of healthcare is likely
2 to increase the cost of living and drive more residents into
3 poverty, which increases the likelihood of becoming uninsured.
4 The results are an increase in medicaid expenditures for the
5 State.

6 The legislature further finds that neighbor island
7 residents are particularly adversely affected by the excise tax
8 surcharge on medical services. They often have no choice but to
9 pay more to travel to Oahu to find medical specialists, often
10 accompanied by a family member. They pay more for health care
11 by reason of the costs of their air and ground transportation,
12 lodging, and meals, all of which are taxable. Honolulu's excise
13 tax surcharge does not benefit neighbor island residents, which
14 poses an inherent inequity.

15 The purpose of this Act is to exempt physician services,
16 hospital charges, nursing services, and rehabilitation services
17 from the county surcharge on excise tax.

18 SECTION 2. Section 237-8.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

20 "(d) No county surcharge on state tax shall be established
21 on any:



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- 1 (1) Gross income or gross proceeds taxable under this
- 2 chapter at the one-half per cent tax rate;
- 3 (2) Gross income or gross proceeds taxable under this
- 4 chapter at the 0.15 per cent tax rate; [~~or~~]
- 5 (3) Gross income or gross proceeds from all medical
- 6 services performed or provided by a licensed medical
- 7 practitioner, hospital, medical facility, nursing home
- 8 or facility, or rehabilitation facility; or
- 9 ~~(3)~~ (4) Transactions, amounts, persons, gross income, or
- 10 gross proceeds exempt from tax under this chapter."

11 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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JAN 18 2007



Report Title:

County Surcharge on State Tax; Exemption; Health Care

Description:

Exempts physician services, hospital charges, nursing services, and rehabilitation services from the county surcharge on state tax.

