

HB 969 – Medical Laboratories – Advertising or Solicitation of Business – Repeal of Prohibition

MARCH 11, 2019

THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

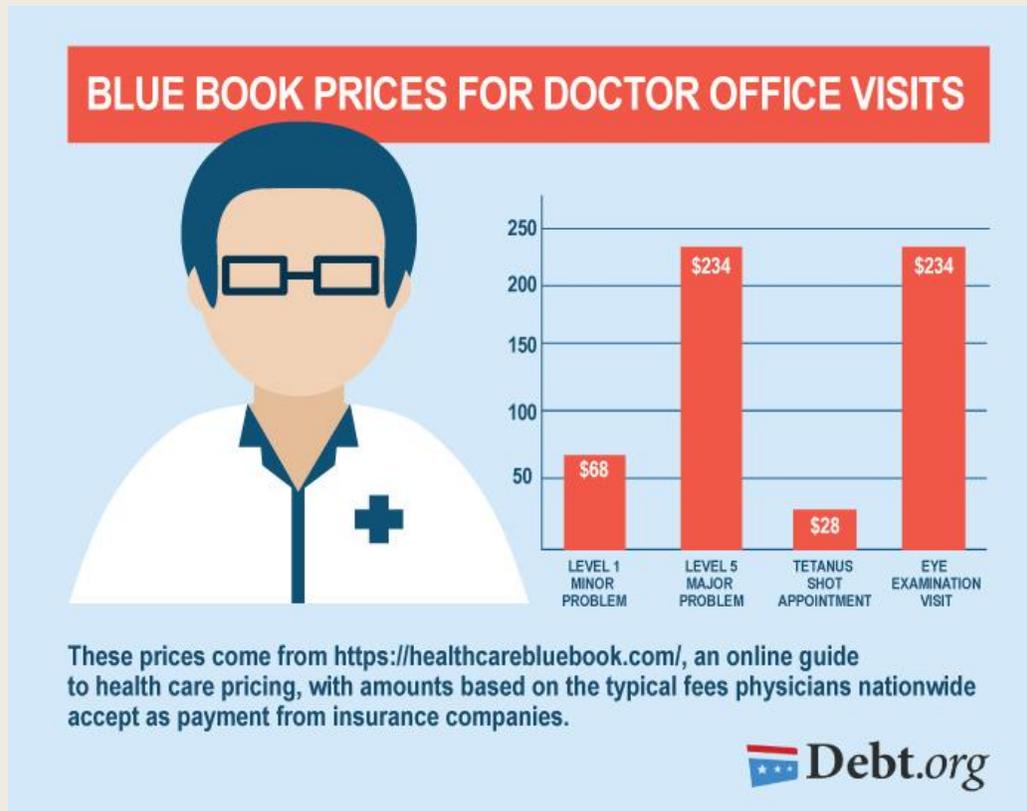
SPONSORED BY: DELEGATE NEIL PARROTT

Currently...

If you need a medical test, you must make an appointment, see your doctor, get a referral, get a prescription, make another appointment, and then finally get the medical test. The results are mailed to your doctor. . . .



Visits for Referrals Add Up!



The average cost of a visit is around 60 dollars.

Patients with ongoing health issues have to keep going back for referrals and can spend hundreds of dollars for what amounts to a piece of paper: a permission slip for a routine lab test.

HB 969 seeks to make the process
easier...



What this bill does...

This bill repeals the sole clause that restricts direct interaction between an individual and a medical laboratory.

It's the clause in the Health Article, Section 17-215, which provides:

“A person may not directly or indirectly advertise for or solicit business in this State for any medical laboratory, regardless of locations, from anyone except a physician, hospital, medical laboratory, clinic, clinical installation, or other medical care facility.”

People should be Allowed to Take Control of Their Own Health

This bill empowers patients who wish to control their health, to do so.

This bill would help people save money and time while taking care of themselves.



Throughout the States

- Maryland is one of only two states that does not allow Direct-to-Consumer Testing (DCT) for genetic tests
- A June, 2007 survey by Johns Hopkins showed that 26 states had no restricts on DCT and 11 states, including Maryland, had only limited access.
- In 2017, the FDA approved 23andMe to be used as a diagnostic tool, but other DCT is still not allowed
- Today, we called a medical lab, and could not get a cholesterol check without a doctor's note

Consider that years ago, lawyers were not allowed to advertise their services – this prevented lawyers from helping others and prevented clients from finding the legal help they needed.

By allowing lawyers to advertise, we were able to empower and educate people and improve legal services.

This bill seeks to similarly empower and educate patients, while reducing costs and improving services.

Prescription Drug Advertisement

Prescription drug companies were not able to advertise medications until the 1980s

Patients are now more educated and empowered with their health options

- Patient more readily seek medical advice
- Doctor/patient relationships have been strengthened
- Increased patient compliance, as ads remind one to take their medication, as well as reinforce physician recommendations
- Reduces underdiagnoses and under-treatment of conditions because patients are more well-informed

Please Vote Favorably for HB 969

Questions?