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S.F. No. 4833 - Fee charges for medical records to certain individuals prohibition clarification (as amended by the A-2 Amendment)

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Section Summaries

Section 1 (adds Minn. Stat. § 144.292, subdivision 6) Existing law prohibits a provider from charging a per page fee to provide copies of a patient's medical records if the request is for purposes of appealing a denial of Social Security disability income or Social Security disability benefits, and when the patient is: (1) receiving public assistance; (2) represented by an attorney on behalf of a civil legal services program; or (3) represented by a volunteer attorney program based on indigency. This section clarifies application of the subdivision for x-rays and requires the patient to submit one of the following to show they are entitled to receive records without charge: (1) a public assistance statement from the county or state administering assistance; (2) a request for records on the letterhead of the civil legal services program or volunteer attorney program based on indigency; or (3) a benefits statement from the Social Security Administration.

Section 1 of the bill also modifies the same statutory subdivision to establish new charges a provider may charge a patient for the patient's medical records for purposes other than for reviewing the patient's current medical care. The new charges are set as follows:

- 1) for paper copies, \$1 per page, plus \$10 for time spent retrieving and copying the records;
- 2) for x-rays, a total of \$30 for retrieving and reproducing x-rays; and
- 3) for electronic copies, a total of \$20 for retrieving the records.

Maximum total costs are further established for costs for paper copies requested (*i.e.*, item #1 above), as follows:

- 1) \$10 if there are no records available;
- 2) \$30 for copies of records of up to 25 pages;
- 3) \$50 for copies of records of up to 100 pages;

- 4) \$50, plus an additional 20 cents per page for pages 101 and above; and
- 5) \$500 for any request.