

**Minnesota AG reviewing two  
proposed hospital mergers**

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**Average annual healthcare  
cost in all 50 states**

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**Following pushback, Allina  
Health to 'formally  
transition' from  
controversial billing policy**

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**Hospitals facing stricter  
charity care oversight**

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# **HF 2145 (see companion bill SF 2079)**

NONDISCRIMINATION AGAINST PROVIDERS WITHIN A GEOGRAPHIC AREA.  
(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no health carrier shall deny a health care provider the right to contract with the health carrier as an in-network provider in any health plan offered and actively marketed by the health carrier within the same geographic area in which the provider's primary practice is located. For purposes of this section, "geographic area" means the Minnesota specific geographic rating areas established for purposes of insurance rate pricing within the state. (b) The health carrier may require the provider to meet reasonable referral, utilization review, and quality assurance requirements on the same basis as other in-network providers. (c) This section applies to health plans offered by managed care organizations and county-based purchasing plans under a public health care program under chapter 256B.

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## **HF 2930 (see companion bill SF 2995)**

Omnibus health finance bill: This article makes changes in the operation of the medical assistance and MinnesotaCare programs. Areas addressed by the article include, but are not limited to: hospital reimbursement, covered services, the Drug Formulary Committee, value-based drug purchasing, managed care withholds, dental rebasing, and telehealth and audio-only communication.

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## **SF 3153 (see companion bill HF 2990)**

Transitional cost-sharing reduction, premium subsidy, small employer public option, and transitional health care credit established; MinnesotaCare eligibility expanded; premium scale modified; and recommendations for alternative delivery and payment system required.

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## **HF 1677 (see companion bill SF 1491)**

This bill amends statutes governing health plan network adequacy, credentialing of health care providers by health plan companies, and health plan coverage of mental health and chemical dependency services. It also requires the commissioner of health to study and develop recommendations on other ways to determine geographic accessibility of health care providers and adequacy of health care provider networks.