

(4) Within a reasonable time after the end of each facility's fiscal year or more often as the Commission determines, prepare from the information filed with the Commission any summary, compilation, or other supplementary report that will advance the purposes of this subtitle;

(5) Periodically participate in or do analyses and studies that relate to:

(i) Health care costs;

(ii) The financial status of any facility; or

(iii) Any other appropriate matter; {and}

(6) On or before October 1 of each year, submit to the Governor, to the Secretary, and, subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly an annual report on the operations and activities of the Commission during the preceding fiscal year, including:

(i) A copy of each summary, compilation, and supplementary report required by this subtitle; and

(ii) Any other fact, suggestion, or policy recommendation that the Commission considers necessary; AND

(7) ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO ACT AS AN ADVOCACY UNIT OF GOVERNMENT TO REPRESENT THE PUBLIC IN ANY DISPUTE CONCERNING ALLEGED OVERCHARGES THAT A HOSPITAL MAKES AGAINST ANY PATIENT.

SUBTITLE 4A. HEALTH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY UNIT

13-4A-01.

THERE IS A HEALTH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY UNIT IN THE DIVISION.

13-4A-02.

(A) THE UNIT MAY IMPLEMENT AN EDUCATIONAL AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM DESIGNED TO:

(1) ENABLE HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS TO MAKE MORE INFORMED CHOICES IN THE HEALTH MARKETPLACE, AND TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS CONCERNING THEIR HEALTH CARE; AND

(2) OTHERWISE PROMOTE THE INTEREST OF HEALTH CONSUMERS IN THE HEALTH MARKETPLACE.

(B) (1) THE UNIT MAY ASSIST HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS IN UNDERSTANDING THEIR HEALTH CARE BILLS AND THIRD PARTY COVERAGE, IN IDENTIFYING IMPROPER BILLING OR COVERAGE DETERMINATIONS, AND IN REPORTING ANY BILLING OR COVERAGE PROBLEMS TO APPROPRIATE