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## Important!! Georgia's surprise billing measure signed into law:

1 message

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**HomeTown Health CEO's and Senior Staff:**

**Reference: Georgia's surprise billing measure signed into law:**

**Be aware!**

**Georgia's surprise billing measure signed into law: 3 things to know**

Morgan Haefner - Saturday, July 18th, 2020 [Print](#) | [Email](#)

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Republican Gov. Brian Kemp [signed](#) legislation into law July 16 that aims to curb instances of surprise medical billing in Georgia.

Three things to know:

1. The legislation, [HB 888](#), outlines consumer protections against surprise billing. Under the law, health insurers can't send balance bills, commonly referred to as "surprise" medical bills, to members who received emergency services from an out-of-network healthcare provider.
2. Patients won't pay any more than their deductible, copay or in-network requirements in these situations.
3. The bill also requires the state's insurance department to run an all-payer health claims database and establish an arbitration process. Providers can request arbitration for additional payment from health insurers, but the patient wouldn't be involved in these discussions.

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## Gov. Kemp signs new healthcare legislation

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### Release:

**Atlanta, GA** – Governor Brian P. Kemp today signed several pieces of legislation to ensure a safer and healthier Georgia. Among the bills signed at a ceremony at Wellstar Kennestone Hospital were bills to

reduce surprise medical billing (HB 888) and address Georgia's maternal mortality rate by enhancing access to quality and timely care for mothers on Medicaid (HB 1114).

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“This is a historic step forward for Georgia when it comes to healthcare, and frankly, it couldn't come at a better time – as our state and country face the greatest public health challenge we have seen in the 21st Century,” **said Governor Kemp**. “When we began 2020, none of us could have predicted that we would face a pandemic and grapple with unprecedented threats to the lives – and livelihoods – of all Georgians.”

“We have faced sobering moments together, but today is a bright spot as we continue to streamline bureaucracy, increase access to care, insist on transparency and fairness, improve health outcomes, and put Georgia families first. I am grateful for the hard work of the General Assembly along with our partners in the medical field, frontline heroes, and local leaders to champion these much-needed reforms as we work to build a safer, stronger Georgia.”

Thanks,

*Jimmy Lewis*

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