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Madigan Wants More Charity Care For Poor

Industry Group Objects To Proposed Legislation

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CHICAGO -- -- Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan says non-profit hospitals haven't lived up to their end of the bargain to provide care for the poor in exchange for not having to pay taxes.

That's why Madigan on Monday unveiled legislation that would require most of the hospitals in Illinois to spend at least 8 percent of their operating costs on charity care.

Madigan says the state's non-profit hospitals now are spending about 1 percent. But Madigan says increasing that to 8 percent won't be difficult.

Her bill would let hospitals count as part of their charity care the difference between what the state reimburses them to care for Medicaid patients and what it actually costs to do that.

The Illinois Hospital Association -- however -- says forcing non-profit hospitals to do more could put some out of business.

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