



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 3882



Offered by:

SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 395

File No. 264

Cal. No. 190

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF MEDICAL DEBT."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Collection entity" means any individual, partnership,
5 corporation, trust, estate, cooperative, association, government or
6 government subdivision, agency or other entity that either purchases
7 medical debt or collects medical debt on behalf of another entity;

8 (2) "Credit rating agency" and "credit report" have the same meanings
9 as provided in section 36a-695 of the general statutes;

10 (3) "Health care goods" means goods, including, but not limited to,
11 products, devices, durable medical equipment and prescription drugs;

12 (4) "Health care provider" has the same meaning as provided in
13 section 19a-17b of the general statutes;

14 (5) "Health care services" has the same meaning as provided in
15 section 38a-478 of the general statutes; and

16 (6) "Medical debt" means an obligation or alleged obligation of a
17 consumer to pay any amount related to the receipt by the consumer of
18 health care goods or health care services. "Medical debt" does not
19 include debt charged to a credit card unless the credit card is issued
20 under an open-end or closed-end credit plan offered specifically for the
21 payment of charges related to health care goods or health care services.

22 (b) On and after July 1, 2024, any health care provider or any
23 collection entity doing business in this state shall not report any portion
24 of a medical debt to a credit rating agency for use in a credit report. A
25 health care provider doing business in this state shall include in any
26 contract entered into with a collection entity on and after July 1, 2024,
27 for the purchase or collection of medical debt a provision that prohibits
28 the reporting of any portion of such medical debt to a credit rating
29 agency.

30 (c) Any portion of a medical debt that is reported to a credit rating
31 agency shall be void.

32 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 19a-673b of the general statutes is
33 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
34 *2024*):

35 (c) [On or after October 1, 2022, no] No hospital or entity that is
36 owned by or affiliated with such hospital, as defined in section 19a-490,
37 and no collection agent, as defined in section 19a-509b, that receives a
38 referral from a hospital or entity that is owned by or affiliated with such
39 hospital, shall:

40 (1) [Report] On and after July 1, 2024, report an individual patient to
41 a credit rating agency, as defined in section 36a-695; [, for a period of
42 one year beginning on the date that such patient first receives a bill for
43 health care provided by the hospital or entity that is owned by or
44 affiliated with such hospital to such patient on or after October 1, 2022;]

45 (2) [Initiate] On or after October 1, 2022, initiate an action to foreclose
 46 a lien on an individual patient's primary residence if the lien was filed
 47 to secure payment for health care provided by the hospital or entity that
 48 is owned by or affiliated with such hospital to such patient on or after
 49 October 1, 2022; or

50 (3) [Apply] On or after October 1, 2022, apply to a court for an
 51 execution against an individual patient's wages pursuant to section 52-
 52 361a, or otherwise seek to garnish such patient's wages, to collect
 53 payment for health care provided by the hospital or entity that is owned
 54 by or affiliated with such hospital to such patient on or after October 1,
 55 2022, if such patient is eligible for the hospital bed fund."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	19a-673b(c)