



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 5288



Offered by:  
REP. CASE, 63<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 395

File No. 264

Cal. No. 406

(As Amended)

**"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 that are medically necessary,  
19 as defined in section 38a-482a of the general statutes. "Medical debt"  
20 does not include debt charged to a credit card unless the credit card is  
21 issued under an open-end or closed-end credit plan offered specifically  
22 for the payment of charges related to health care goods or health care  
23 services.

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

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

34 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 19a-673b of the general statutes is  
35 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
36 *2024*):

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

42 (1) [Report] On and after July 1, 2024, report an individual patient to

43 a credit rating agency, as defined in section 36a-695; [, for a period of  
 44 one year beginning on the date that such patient first receives a bill for  
 45 health care provided by the hospital or entity that is owned by or  
 46 affiliated with such hospital to such patient on or after October 1, 2022;]

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

52 (3) [Apply] On or after October 1, 2022, apply to a court for an  
 53 execution against an individual patient's wages pursuant to section 52-  
 54 361a, or otherwise seek to garnish such patient's wages, to collect  
 55 payment for health care provided by the hospital or entity that is owned  
 56 by or affiliated with such hospital to such patient on or after October 1,  
 57 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	July 1, 2024	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2024	19a-673b(c)