

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB548
Version:	ENGR
Request Number:	NA
Author:	Townley
Date:	4/5/2021
Impact:	Please see previous summary of this measure

Research Analysis

SB 548 prohibits any medical service or care entity from reporting healthcare debt to a credit bureau or pursuing collection efforts unless the patient was presented with and agreed to a good faith estimate of the total cost of healthcare services to be provided prior to receiving the services. The measure also requires the total cost of services bill to be presented in writing to the liable person for the debt and the bill must be separate from all other forms and paperwork and must be prominently displayed on the first page of the document.

If a good faith estimate can't be provided to the patient because emergency care was deemed necessary and rendered beforehand, no medical service or health care entity can charge the person liable for the medical debt who is uninsured more than 165% of the Medicare rate for emergency services rendered. If the patient has health insurance, the medical service provider or health care entity cannot charge more than the patient's health benefit plan in-network rate for emergency services rendered.

The measure specifies that non-compliance with this act is grounds for dismissal of any collection suit or garnishment proceeding and may be asserted as an affirmative defense to any such action.

Prepared By: Dan Brooks

Fiscal Analysis

The measure is currently under review and impact information will be completed.

Prepared By: Mark Tygret

Other Considerations

None.