



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 382

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1469

Senate, April 1, 2025

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. LESSER of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL DEBT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 46b-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) Any purchase made by either a husband or wife in his or her own
4 name shall be presumed, in the absence of notice to the contrary, to be
5 made by him or her as an individual and he or she shall be liable for the
6 purchase.

7 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, it
8 shall be the joint duty of each spouse to support his or her family, and
9 both shall be liable for: (1) The reasonable and necessary services of a
10 physician or dentist; (2) hospital expenses rendered the husband or wife
11 or minor child while residing in the family of his or her parents; (3) the
12 rental of any dwelling unit actually occupied by the husband and wife
13 as a residence and reasonably necessary to them for that purpose; and
14 (4) any article purchased by either which has in fact gone to the support

15 of the family, or for the joint benefit of both.

16 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a
 17 spouse who abandons his or her spouse without cause shall be liable for
 18 the reasonable support of such other spouse while abandoned.

19 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
 20 no spouse surviving after the death of a spouse shall be responsible for
 21 the medical debt of the deceased spouse related to the (1) reasonable and
 22 necessary services of a physician or dentist that were rendered to a
 23 deceased spouse, or (2) hospital expenses that were rendered to a
 24 deceased spouse.

25 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) No action may be maintained against either spouse under the
 26 provisions of this section, either during or after any period of separation
 27 from the other spouse, for any liability incurred by the other spouse
 28 during the separation, if, during the separation the spouse who is liable
 29 for support of the other spouse has provided the other spouse with
 30 reasonable support.

31 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) Abandonment without cause by a spouse shall be a defense
 32 to any liability pursuant to the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4),
 33 inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section for expenses incurred by and
 34 for the benefit of such spouse. Nothing in this subsection shall affect the
 35 duty of a parent to support his or her minor child.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	46b-37

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Subsec. (d) was redrafted for clarity.

HS Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
UConn Health Ctr.	OF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

Note: OF=Other Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential revenue loss to the UConn Health Center (UCHC) annually beginning in FY 26. It eliminates the liability of a surviving spouse for a deceased person's medical debt. To the extent that this reduces the number of bills on which UCHC collects payment, there is a revenue loss that will vary based on the number of uncollectible bills and the total amount owed on such bills.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of uncollectible bills as a result of the bill and the total amount owed on such bills.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1469*****AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL DEBT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill exempts a surviving spouse from responsibility for a deceased spouse's medical debt related to (1) reasonable and necessary physician or dentist services or (2) hospital expenses. Under existing law unchanged by the bill, spouses are generally jointly liable for these expenses while both are living.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 7 (03/13/2025)