



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1192

LCO No. 3730



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
2 "hospital" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-490 of the
3 general statutes; and (2) "hospital financial assistance" means any
4 program administered by a hospital that reduces, in whole or in part, a
5 patient's liability for the cost of providing services, as defined in section
6 19a-673 of the general statutes.

7 (b) The Office of the Healthcare Advocate shall, within available
8 appropriations, contract with a vendor to develop an online hospital
9 financial assistance portal for use by patients and family members. Such
10 portal shall serve as a navigation tool to help patients and family
11 members identify and apply for hospital financial assistance at hospitals
12 in the state. The portal may include, but need not be limited to, (1)
13 technical assistance and tools that streamline the application process for
14 hospital financial assistance, (2) a screening tool to help determine
15 whether patients may be eligible for hospital financial assistance, and
16 (3) information to assist patients and family members in avoiding future

17 medical debt.

18 (c) The Office of the Healthcare Advocate may, (1) in consultation
 19 with the Office of Policy and Management, publish on the Office of the
 20 Healthcare Advocate's Internet web site information regarding the
 21 state's medical debt erasure initiative authorized pursuant to section 48
 22 of public act 23-204, as amended by section 1 of public act 24-81, and (2)
 23 in consultation with relevant organizations, develop recommendations
 24 concerning such initiative that may assist patients and family members
 25 in avoiding future medical debt, including, but not limited to, methods
 26 to streamline the application process for hospital financial assistance.

27 (d) On and after July 1, 2026, any hospital maintaining a financial
 28 assistance program shall provide the Office of the Healthcare Advocate
 29 with the links for each Internet web site for such program. If a hospital
 30 revises its hospital financial assistance application form or establishes a
 31 new hospital financial assistance program, the hospital shall notify the
 32 Office of the Healthcare Advocate of such revisions or new program and
 33 provide said office with any new links for each Internet web site for such
 34 program not later than thirty days after making such revisions or
 35 establishing a new program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To improve hospital financial policies.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]