



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1469

LCO No. 5936



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

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 Section 46b-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 medical debt related to the (1) reasonable and necessary services of a
 22 physician or dentist, or (2) hospital expenses rendered to a deceased
 23 spouse.

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

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

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

To protect spouses from inheriting medical debt from their partners.

[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.]