



General Assembly  
January Session, 2025

**Substitute Bill No. 1469**



**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 Section 46b-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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*