STATE OF NEW YORK

8373--A

IN SENATE

January 24, 2024

Introduced by Sen. RIVERA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection -- recommitted to the Committee on Consumer Protection in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law and the public health law, in relation to the definition of medical debt

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision (v) of section 380-a of the general business law, as added by chapter 727 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

(v) The term "medical debt" means any obligation or alleged obligation of a consumer to pay any amount whatsoever related to the receipt of health care services, products, or devices provided by a hospital licensed under article twenty-eight of the public health law, a health care professional authorized under title eight of the education law, or an ambulance service certified under article thirty of the public health law. **Medical debt does not include debt charged to a credit card unless the credit card is issued under an open-ended or closed-ended plan offered specifically for the payment of health care services, products, or devices provided to a person.**

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 4925 of the public health law, as added by chapter 727 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

1. "Medical debt" means an obligation or alleged obligation of a consumer to pay any amount whatsoever related to the receipt of health care services, products, or devices provided to a person by a hospital licensed under article twenty-eight of this chapter, a health care professional authorized under title eight of the education law or an ambulance service certified under article thirty of this chapter. Medical debt does not include debt charged to a credit card unless the credit card is issued under an open-ended or [~~closed-end~~] **closed-ended** plan offered specifically for the payment of health care services, products, or devices provided to a person.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be deemed to have been in full force and effect on the same date and in the same manner as chapter 727 of the laws of 2023 amending the public health law and the general business law relating to prohibiting medical debt from being collected by a consumer reporting agency or included in a consumer report, takes effect.