

# STATE OF NEW YORK

359

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sens. RIVERA, JACKSON, KRUEGER, MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to prohibiting state-operated hospitals from suing patients for medical debt

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

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new article 51  
2 to read as follows:

### ARTICLE 51

#### PROHIBITION ON STATE-OPERATED HOSPITALS SUING PATIENTS FOR MEDICAL DEBT

3 Section 5100. Prohibition on state-operated hospitals suing patients for  
4 medical debt.

5 § 5100. Prohibition on state-operated hospitals suing patients for  
6 medical debt. 1. No state university health care facility authorized  
7 under article eight of the education law, cancer institute authorized  
8 under article ten-C of the public authorities law, or hospital author-  
9 ized under section twenty-six hundred of this chapter shall pursue liti-  
10 gation in civil or supreme court against a patient for the pursuit of a  
11 medical debt.

12 2. For the purposes of this section, the term "medical debt" shall  
13 mean an obligation or alleged obligation of a consumer to pay any amount  
14 related to the receipt of health care services, products, or devices  
15 provided to a person by a hospital licensed under article twenty-eight  
16 of this chapter, a health care professional authorized under title eight  
17 of the education law or an ambulance service certified under article  
18 thirty of this chapter.

19 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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