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:

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

ARTICLE 51

PROHIBITION ON STATE-OPERATED HOSPITALS SUING PATIENTS FOR MEDICAL DEBT

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

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

2. For the purposes of this section, the term "medical debt" shall mean an obligation or alleged obligation of a consumer to pay any amount 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.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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