

HB4461



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4461

Introduced 1/20/2026, by Rep. Amy Briel

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

210 ILCS 88/30

Amends the Fair Patient Billing Act. In provisions concerning hospitals and their agents pursuing collection actions, provides that, for any legal action initiated against a patient for unpaid medical debt, a hospital may not file for or be granted a lien upon that patient's primary residence or on any other real property owned by the patient. Effective January 1, 2027.

LRB104 16887 BAB 30298 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Fair Patient Billing Act is amended by
5 changing Section 30 as follows:

6 (210 ILCS 88/30)

7 Sec. 30. Pursuing collection action.

8 (a) Hospitals and their agents may pursue collection
9 action against an uninsured patient only if the following
10 conditions are met:

11 (1) The hospital has complied with the screening
12 requirements set forth in Section 16 and applied and
13 exhausted any discount available to a patient under
14 Section 10 of the Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act.

15 (2) The hospital has given the uninsured patient the
16 opportunity to:

17 (A) assess the accuracy of the bill;

18 (B) apply for financial assistance under the
19 hospital's financial assistance policy; and

20 (C) avail themselves of a reasonable payment plan.

21 (3) If the uninsured patient has indicated an
22 inability to pay the full amount of the debt in one
23 payment, the hospital has offered the patient a reasonable

1 payment plan. The hospital may require the uninsured
2 patient to provide reasonable verification of his or her
3 inability to pay the full amount of the debt in one
4 payment.

5 (4) To the extent the hospital provides financial
6 assistance and the circumstances of the uninsured patient
7 suggest the potential for eligibility for charity care,
8 the uninsured patient has been given at least 90 days
9 following the date of discharge or receipt of outpatient
10 care to submit an application for financial assistance and
11 shall be provided assistance with the application in
12 compliance with subsection (a) of Section 16 and Section
13 27.

14 (5) If the uninsured patient has agreed to a
15 reasonable payment plan with the hospital, and the patient
16 has failed to make payments in accordance with that
17 reasonable payment plan.

18 (6) If the uninsured patient informs the hospital that
19 he or she has applied for health care coverage under a
20 public health insurance program (and there is a reasonable
21 basis to believe that the patient will qualify for such
22 program) but the patient's application is denied.

23 (a-5) A hospital shall proactively offer information on
24 charity care options available to uninsured patients,
25 regardless of their immigration status or residency.

26 (b) A hospital may not refer a bill, or portion thereof, to

1 a collection agency or attorney for collection action against
2 the insured patient, without first ensuring compliance with
3 Section 16 and offering the patient the opportunity to request
4 a reasonable payment plan for the amount personally owed by
5 the patient. Such an opportunity shall be made available for
6 the 90 days following the date of the initial bill. If the
7 insured patient requests a reasonable payment plan, but fails
8 to agree to a plan within 90 days of the request, the hospital
9 may proceed with collection action against the patient.

10 (c) No collection agency, law firm, or individual may
11 initiate legal action for non-payment of a hospital bill
12 against a patient without the written approval of an
13 authorized hospital employee who reasonably believes that the
14 conditions for pursuing collection action under this Section
15 have been met.

16 (c-5) For any legal action initiated against a patient for
17 unpaid medical debt, a hospital may not file for or be granted
18 a lien upon that patient's primary residence or on any other
19 real property owned by the patient.

20 (d) Nothing in this Section prohibits a hospital from
21 engaging an outside third party agency, firm, or individual to
22 manage the process of implementing the hospital's financial
23 assistance and reasonable payment plan programs and policies
24 so long as such agency, firm, or individual is contractually
25 bound to comply with the terms of this Act.

26 (Source: P.A. 102-504, eff. 12-1-21; 103-323, eff. 1-1-24.)

1 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on
2 January 1, 2027.