



MARYLAND COMMISSIONER OF FINANCIAL REGULATION CONSUMER ADVISORY



October 14, 2025

Guidance on New Laws on Collection of Medical Debt

The Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) is providing guidance to help Maryland consumers understand how recently passed laws regarding medical debt will affect them.

During the 2025 session, the Maryland General Assembly passed three bills regarding the collection and reporting of consumer medical debt¹.

Consumer Reporting

New laws prohibit what lenders, debt collectors, and medical services providers can post to consumer credit reports.

- Neither a debt collector, nor anyone who provides medical services, may report medical debt to a consumer reporting agency.
- A consumer reporting agency cannot create a report that includes any adverse information about a medical debt, including any collection activity.
- A lender cannot use any information on a medical debt to determine whether to extend credit to a consumer.

Collection Activity

New laws limit medical debt collection.

- A creditor cannot use a court judgment for a medical debt to place a lien on a consumer's home.
- A hospital cannot file a lawsuit to collect a debt against a patient for a medical debt that is less than \$500.00.
- The statute of limitations to collect a debt for hospital services is three (3) years regardless of any language to the contrary in a contract between the hospital and patient.
- Hospitals are required to inform patients about financial assistance options. Patients have 240 days from receiving their first bill to submit an application. During that period, a hospital may not file an action to collect on the debt.

Consumers should carefully review a copy of their [credit report](#) by visiting AnnualCreditReport.com. Contact the consumer reporting agency if any information prohibited under the new laws is on the report to determine if it may be removed. Consumers

¹ [House Bill 268](#), [House Bill 428](#), [House Bill 1020](#)

receiving care at a hospital should carefully review any information regarding the availability of financial assistance and contact their provider if they believe they may be eligible.

Complaints

If you believe the consumer reporting agency has not corrected or removed inaccurate information, or if you believe a creditor is improperly collecting on medical debt, you may report your concerns to OFR's Consumer Services Unit by submitting a [consumer complaint online](#), by email at CSU.Complaints@maryland.gov, or by telephone to 410-230-6077.

The Office of Financial Regulation, a division of the Maryland Department of Labor, is Maryland's consumer financial protection agency and financial services regulator. For more information, please visit our website at www.labor.maryland.gov/finance.



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