

NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
CHAIR

ANDREA FLETCHER HARRISON
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DELEGATION

February 17, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Bill: HB0405 – Prince George's County - Hospitals - Sale of Patient
Debt (PG 402-25)
Committee: Health and Government Operations
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk:

The Prince George's County House Delegation has voted Favorable with Amendments in support of HB 405 (PG 402-25). You will find attached the vote sheet and its approved amendment, as well as the amendment itself.

We request that your committee return a favorable report on HB 405, Prince George's County - Hospitals - Sale of Patient Debt (PG 402-25). We thank you for your consideration of the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Williams".

Nicole A. Williams, Esq.,
Prince George's County House Delegation

TIFFANY T. ALSTON
BEN BARNES
ADRIAN BOAFO
DIANA M. FENNELL
ANNE HEALEY
MARVIN E. HOLMES, JR.
JULIAN IVEY
MARY A. LEHMAN
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KENT ROBERSON
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DENI TAVERAS
KYM TAYLOR
KAREN TOLES
VERONICA TURNER
KRISSELDA VALDERRAMA
JAMILA J. WOODS

STAFF

LATOSHIA COLEMAN
DYLAN HARVEY

2024 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION
VOTING SHEET FOR AMENDMENTS

Date:

Bill Number/Title: PG 402-25 - HB405

Requested by:

MOTION: ☐ Favorable ☒ Favorable w/amendments ☐ Unfavorable ☐ Hold/Special Order

Move: _____

Second: _____

Amendments: _____

Member	Yes	No	Pass (1 st)	Pass (2 nd)	Abstain	Absent
T. Alston	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Barnes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boafo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fennell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Turner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valderrama	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FINAL DISPOSITION: 19 FAV FWA UNF HOLD/S/O

ABSENT = absent from vote

TOTAL VOTES= 23; Constitutional Majority = 12; 2/3 Vote = 16
PASS will only take place twice: After 2nd pass no vote will be recorded



HB0405/603923/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

14 FEB 25
12:15:17

BY: Prince George's County Delegation
(To be offered in the Health and Government Operations
Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 405
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 4, after "hospital" insert ", under certain circumstances,"; in line 5, after "debt," insert "requiring that a hospital's financial policy require the hospital to dismiss actions pending against a patient for the collection of debt that was sold and prohibit the hospital from engaging in specified collection activities on patient debt that was sold; requiring a purchaser of medical debt to notify the patient of certain information and to take certain other actions;"; strike in their entirety lines 7 through 11, inclusive; and in line 14, strike "19-214.2(b), (m), and (n)" and substitute "19-214.2(a), (b), (f), (m), and (n) and 19-219(a)(3)".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 11, strike "and"; and in line 15, after "insurance" insert ";AND

4. FOR HOSPITAL DEBTS OWED BY PATIENTS OF THE HOSPITAL THAT THE HOSPITAL SOLD TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY UNDER SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION:

A. THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF THE DEBT SOLD BY THE HOSPITAL FOR THE REPORTING YEAR;

B. THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT PAID TO THE HOSPITAL BY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY; AND

C. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS WHOSE DEBT WAS SOLD, IN FULL OR IN PART, TO PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY".

On page 3, in line 16, strike "and"; in line 20, after "policy" insert ";

(12) REQUIRE THE HOSPITAL TO DISMISS ACTIONS PENDING AGAINST A PATIENT FOR COLLECTION OF DEBT THAT WAS SOLD UNDER SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(13) PROHIBIT THE HOSPITAL FROM:

(I) ENGAGING IN COLLECTION ACTIVITIES ON 100% OF THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT OF THE COMMISSION-SET CHARGE FOR DEBT SOLD UNDER SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(II) COLLECTING ON JUDGMENTS ENTERED INTO ON PATIENT DEBT THAT WAS SOLD UNDER SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION";

and after line 20, insert:

"(f) (1) For at least 180 days after issuing an initial patient bill, a hospital may not report adverse information about a patient to a consumer reporting agency or commence civil action against a patient for nonpayment.

(2) A hospital shall report the fulfillment of a patient's payment obligation within 60 days after the obligation is fulfilled to any consumer reporting agency to which the hospital had reported adverse information about the patient, INCLUDING IF THE DEBT WAS SOLD UNDER SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION.

(3) A hospital may not report adverse information to a consumer reporting agency regarding a patient who at the time of service was uninsured or eligible for free or reduced-cost care under § 19-214.1 of this subtitle.

(4) A hospital may not report adverse information about a patient to a consumer reporting agency, commence a civil action against a patient for nonpayment, or delegate collection activity to a debt collector:

(i) If the hospital was notified in accordance with federal law by the patient or the insurance carrier that an appeal or a review of a health insurance decision is pending within the immediately preceding 60 days; [or]

(ii) If the hospital has completed a requested reconsideration of the denial of free or reduced-cost care that was appropriately completed by the patient within the immediately preceding 60 days; OR

(III) IF THE HOSPITAL SOLD THE DEBT UNDER SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION.

(5) If a hospital has reported adverse information about a patient to a consumer reporting agency, the hospital shall instruct the consumer reporting agency to delete the adverse information about the patient:

(i) If the hospital was informed by the patient or the insurance carrier that an appeal or a review of a health insurance decision is pending, and until 60 days after the appeal is complete; or

(ii) Until 60 days after the hospital has completed a requested reconsideration of the denial of free or reduced-cost care.”;

in line 21, strike "A" and substitute "SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A"; after line 30, insert:

"(2) DEBT SOLD UNDER THIS SUBSECTION:

(I) MUST BE FOR HOSPITAL SERVICES PROVIDED AT LEAST 2 YEARS BEFORE THE DATE OF THE SALE;

(II) MAY NOT BE EXPECTED TO YIELD ADDITIONAL REIMBURSEMENTS FROM A THIRD-PARTY PAYER;

(III) MAY NOT BE SUBJECT TO AN OPEN APPEAL WITH AN INSURANCE COMPANY; AND

(IV) MUST BE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE FAMILY INCOME IS AT OR BELOW 500% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL OR WHO HAS MEDICAL DEBT EXCEEDING 5% OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S FAMILY INCOME, AS DETERMINED BY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

(3) DEBT SOLD UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE SOLD WITH A REDUCTION OF COMMISSION CHARGES."

and in line 31, strike "(2)" and substitute "(4)".

On page 4, in line 1, strike "(3)" and substitute "(5)"; in line 2, strike "NOTIFY" and substitute ":

(I) NOTIFY";

in line 3, after "CANCELED" insert "; AND

(II) IF THE HOSPITAL OBTAINED A JUDGMENT AGAINST THE PATIENT OR REPORTED ADVERSE INFORMATION TO A CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY ABOUT THE PATIENT, SEEK TO VACATE THE JUDGMENT OR STRIKE THE ADVERSE INFORMATION";

after line 13, insert:

"19-219.

(a) The Commission may review the costs, and rates, quality, and efficiency of facility services, and make any investigation that the Commission considers necessary to assure each purchaser of health care facility services that:

(3) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 19-214.2(M) OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE rates are set equitably among all purchasers or classes of purchasers without undue discrimination or preference.";

and in line 15, after "2025." insert "It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect."

2024 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION
VOTING SHEET FOR AMENDMENTS

Date: _____

Bill Number/Title: PG 402-25 — HB405 (Amendment)
(Voice Vote)

Requested by: _____

MOTION: ☐ Favorable ☐ Favorable w/amendments ☐ Unfavorable ☐ Hold/Special Order

Move: _____

Second: _____

Amendments: _____

Member	Yes	No	Pass (1 st)	Pass (2 nd)	Abstain	Absent
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