



Colorado Set to Tie Medical Debt Collection to Price Transparency

The Colorado legislature has overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan bill (House Bill 1285) that would, if enacted, prohibit a hospital or other entity, such as a collection agency, from initiating or pursuing collection actions against a patient for medical debt incurred by the patient on dates of service when the hospital was not in compliance with the federal hospital price transparency provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Hospitals would also be prohibited from filing negative credit reports against patients for treatment received on those noncompliant dates.

Under the bill, a hospital that initiates or pursues a prohibited collection action will be subject to a penalty equal to the amount of the debt and must refund any amount paid on the debt and pay attorney fees and costs. Additionally, the bill makes

attempting to collect the debt an unfair practice under the Colorado Fair Debt Collections Act.

Supporters of the measure noted that only six percent of Colorado hospitals are in full compliance with the price transparency provisions of the ACA, compared with a little more than 14% nationwide.

The bill was passed by a vote of 63 to 1 in the House, and was then passed unanimously in the Senate. It now goes back to the House to approve changes made in the Senate.

[Full text of House Bill 1285 \(Colorado Legislature\)](#)

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