

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 SENATE BILL 519

By: Boren

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to hospitals; defining terms;  
8 prohibiting hospitals from taking certain collection  
9 actions against patients; providing exception;  
10 providing for codification; and providing an  
11 effective date.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-725.11 of Title 63, unless  
15 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 As used in this act:

17 1. "Collection action" means any of the following actions taken  
18 with respect to a debt for items and services that were purchased  
19 from, or provided to a patient by, a hospital on a date during which  
20 the hospital was not in material compliance with hospital price  
21 transparency laws:

- 22 a. attempting to collect a debt from a patient or patient  
23 guarantor by referring the debt, directly or  
24 indirectly, to a debt collector, collection agency, or

1 other third party retained by or on behalf of the  
2 hospital,

3 b. suing the patient or patient guarantor or enforcing an  
4 arbitration or mediation clause in any hospital  
5 documents, including contracts, agreements,  
6 statements, or bills, or

7 c. directly or indirectly causing a report to be made to  
8 a consumer reporting agency;

9 2. a. "Collection agency" means any:

10 (1) person who engages in a business, the principal  
11 purpose of which is the collection of debts, or

12 (2) person who:

13 (a) regularly collects or attempts to collect,  
14 directly or indirectly, debts owed or due or  
15 asserted to be owed or due to another,

16 (b) takes assignment of debts for collection  
17 purposes, or

18 (c) directly or indirectly solicits for  
19 collection debts owed or due or asserted to  
20 be owed or due to another.

21 b. Collection agency does not include:

22 (1) any officer or employee of a creditor while, in  
23 the name of the creditor, collecting debts for  
24 such creditor,

1 (2) any person while acting as a collection agency  
2 for another person, both of whom are related by  
3 common ownership or affiliated by corporate  
4 control, if the person acting as a collection  
5 agency does so only for creditors to whom it is  
6 so related or affiliated and if the principal  
7 business of the person is not the collection of  
8 debts,

9 (3) any officer or employee of the United States or  
10 any state to the extent that collecting or  
11 attempting to collect any debt is in the  
12 performance of the officer's or employee's  
13 official duties,

14 (4) any person while serving or attempting to serve  
15 legal process on any other person in connection  
16 with the judicial enforcement of any debt,

17 (5) any person collecting or attempting to collect  
18 any debt owed or due or asserted to be owed or  
19 due to another to the extent that:

20 (a) the activity is incidental to a bona fide  
21 fiduciary obligation or a bona fide escrow  
22 arrangement,

23 (b) the activity concerns a debt that was  
24 extended by the person,

1 (c) the activity concerns a debt that was not in  
2 default at the time it was obtained by the  
3 person, or

4 (d) the activity concerns a debt obtained by the  
5 person as a secured party in a commercial  
6 credit transaction involving the creditor,  
7 or

8 (6) any person whose principal business is the making  
9 of loans or the servicing of debt not in default  
10 and who acts as a loan correspondent, seller and  
11 servicer for the owner, or holder of a debt that  
12 is secured by a deed of trust on real property,  
13 whether or not the debt is also secured by an  
14 interest in personal property.

15 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph b of  
16 this paragraph, collection agency includes any person  
17 who, in the process of collecting the person's own  
18 debts, uses another name that would indicate that a  
19 third person is collecting or attempting to collect  
20 such debts;

21 3. a. "Debt" means any obligation or alleged obligation of a  
22 consumer to pay money arising out of a transaction,  
23 whether or not the obligation has been reduced to  
24 judgment.

1           b. Debt does not include a debt for business, investment,  
2           commercial, or agricultural purposes or a debt  
3           incurred by a business;

4           4. "Debt collector" means any person employed or engaged by a  
5 collection agency to perform the collection of debts owed or due or  
6 asserted to be owed or due to another;

7           5. "Hospital" means, consistent with 45 C.F.R., Section 180.20,  
8 a hospital licensed by the State Department of Health under Section  
9 1-702 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

10          6. "Items and services" or "items or services" means items and  
11 services as defined in 45 C.F.R., Section 180.20.

12          SECTION 2.       NEW LAW       A new section of law to be codified  
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-725.12 of Title 63, unless  
14 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15          A. On and after the effective date of this act, no debt  
16 collector shall initiate or pursue a collection action against the  
17 patient or patient guarantor for a debt owed for the items or  
18 services purchased from, or provided to a patient by, the hospital  
19 to a collection agency.

20          B. Nothing in this act:

21           1. Prohibits a hospital from billing a patient, patient  
22 guarantor, or third-party payer, including a health insurer, for  
23 items or services provided to the patient; or  
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2. Requires a hospital to refund any payment made to the hospital for items or services provided to the patient, so long as no collection action is taken in violation of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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