

## CHAPTER 203

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**HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING**

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## HOUSE BILL 22-1403

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Jodeh, Hooton, Lindsay, Ricks, Valdez A. ;  
also SENATOR(S) Buckner.

## AN ACT

CONCERNING A THREE-MONTH DELAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH-CARE BILLING REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIGENT PATIENTS ESTABLISHED IN HOUSE BILL 21-1198.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-3-502, **amend** (1) introductory portion as follows:

**25.5-3-502. Requirement to screen patients for eligibility for public health-care programs and discounted care - rules.** (1) Beginning ~~June 1, 2022~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, a health-care facility shall screen, unless a patient declines, each uninsured patient for eligibility for:

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-3-503, **amend** (1) introductory portion as follows:

**25.5-3-503. Health-care discounts on services not eligible for Colorado indigent care program reimbursement.** (1) Beginning ~~June 1, 2022~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, if a patient is screened pursuant to section 25.5-3-502 and is determined to be a qualified patient, a health-care facility and a licensed health-care professional shall, for emergency and other non-CICP health-care services:

**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-3-504, **amend** (1) introductory portion as follows:

**25.5-3-504. Notification of patients' rights.** (1) Beginning ~~June 1, 2022~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, a health-care facility shall make information developed by the state department about patients' rights under this part 5 and the uniform application developed by the state department pursuant to section 25.5-3-505 (2)(i) available to

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

the public and to each patient. At a minimum, the health-care facility shall:

**SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-3-505, **amend** (1) as follows:

**25.5-3-505. Health-care facility reporting requirements - agency enforcement - report - rules.** (1) Beginning ~~June 1, 2023~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, and each ~~June 1~~ SEPTEMBER 1 thereafter, each health-care facility shall report to the state department data that the state department determines is necessary to evaluate compliance across race, ethnicity, age, and primary-language-spoken patient groups with the screening, discounted care, payment plan, and collections practices required pursuant to this part 5. If a health-care facility is not capable of disaggregating the data required pursuant to this subsection (1) by race, ethnicity, age, and primary language spoken, the health-care facility shall report to the state department the steps the facility is taking to improve race, ethnicity, age, and primary-language-spoken data collection and the date by which the facility will be able to disaggregate the reported data.

**SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-3-506, **amend** (1) introductory portion as follows:

**25.5-3-506. Limitations on collection actions - private enforcement.** (1) Beginning ~~June 1, 2022~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, before assigning or selling patient debt to a collection agency, as defined in section 5-16-103 (3)(a), or a debt buyer, as defined in section 5-16-103 (8.5), or before pursuing, either directly or indirectly, any permissible extraordinary collection action, as defined in section 6-20-201 (7):

**SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 6-20-203, **amend** (3)(a), (4) introductory portion, and (5) introductory portion as follows:

**6-20-203. Limitations on collection actions - definition.** (3)(a) Beginning ~~June 1, 2022~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, at least thirty days before taking any permissible extraordinary collection action, a medical creditor, as defined in section 6-20-201 (6)(a), collecting on a debt for hospital services shall notify the patient of potential collection actions and shall include with the notice a statement developed by the department of health care policy and financing that explains the availability of discounted care for qualified individuals and how to apply for such care.

(4) Beginning ~~June 1, 2022~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, if a medical creditor collecting on a debt for hospital services bills or initiates collection activities and it is later determined that the patient should have been screened pursuant to section 25.5-3-503 and is determined to be a qualified patient, as defined in section 25.5-3-501 (5), or it is determined that the patient's bill is eligible for reimbursement through a public health-care coverage program or the Colorado indigent care program, the medical creditor shall:

(5) Beginning ~~June 1, 2022~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, a medical creditor collecting on a debt for hospital services shall not sell a medical debt to another party unless, prior to the sale, the medical debt seller has entered into a legally binding written agreement with the medical debt buyer of the debt pursuant to which:

**SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: May 20, 2022