BILL SUMMARY



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S.F. No. 4065 – Minnesota Debt Fairness Act (as amended by the A-3)

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Section 1 [62J.805 Definitions] defines terms.

Section 2 [62J.806 Policy for Collection of Medical Debt] requires health care providers to make available to the public their policy for collection of medical debt from patients.

Section 3 [62J.807 Denial of Health Treatments or Services Due to Outstanding Medical Debt] provides health care providers from denying medically necessary health treatments or services to a patient, any member of the patient's family, or household because of outstanding medical debt.

Section 4 [62J.808 Billing and Payment for Miscoded Health Treatments and Services] requires health care providers to participate in, and cooperate with, all processes and investigations to identify, review, and correct the coding of health treatments and services that are miscoded by the health care provider or a designee. Health care providers must provide notice to health plan companies that there may be a miscoded health treatment or service.

Section 5 [62Q.491 Out-Of-Pocket Maximum or Cost-Sharing Requirement; Enrollee Contribution Calculation] requires a health plan company to include any amounts paid by the enrollee or paid on behalf of the enrollee by another person when calculating an enrollee's overall contribution toward any out-of-pocket maximum or cost-sharing requirement under a health plan.

Section 6 (section 144.587, subdivision 1) deletes the definition of revenue recapture.

Section 7 (section 144.587, subdivision 4) removes revenue recapture from the prohibited actions provision. This section also removes denying health care services to a patient because of outstanding medical debt but provides that hospitals are subject to section 62J.807 which prohibits denial of health treatments or services due to medical debt.

Section 8 (section 176.175, subdivision 2) provides that any claim for compensation is exempt from seizure or sale up to a \$1,000,000 per claim and subsequent award.

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Section 9 (section 270A.03, subdivision 2) removes municipal and municipal ambulance from the claimant agency definition.

Section 10 [332C.01 Definitions] defines several terms.

Section 11 [332C.02 Prohibited Practices] creates several prohibited practices for collecting parties. These include threatening wage garnishment, use sheriffs or officers to serve legal papers in connection with a claim, and use or threaten to use methods of collection which violate Minnesota law.

Section 12 [332C.04 Defending Medical Debt Cases] provides that a debtor who successfully defends against a claim for payment, must be awarded debtor's costs.

Section 13 [332C.06 Enforcement] provides for enforcement by the attorney general.

Section 14 (334.01) sets the interest rate for medical debt at a rate of \$4 upon \$100 for a year.

Section 15 (section 519.05) provides that a spouse is not liable to a creditor for any debts of the other spouse.

Sections 16 to 21 (section 550.37) exempt sacred possessions, libraries, musical instruments, personal goods, and vehicles up to a certain amount from garnishment.

Section 22 (section 550.37, subdivision 14) exempts public assistance received by a person or by their dependent child from garnishment.

Section 23 (section 550.37, subdivision 20) amends the traceable funds provision to now include public assistance.

Section 24 (section 550.37, subdivision 22) exempts money received for injuries of the debtor from garnishment.

Section 25 (section 550.37, subdivision 23) provides some technical changes.

Section 26 (section 550.37) exempts household tools and equipment from garnishment.

Section 27 (section 550.37) exempts property tax refunds from garnishment.

Section 28 (section 550.37) exempts funds in a depository account up to \$4,000.

Section 29 (section 550.37) exempts funds up to \$4,000 in value during a bankruptcy.

Section 30 [550.3711 Motor Vehicle; Bankruptcy Debtor's Right to Retain] sellers or holders of contract under this section are prohibited from accelerating the amount due under the contract, or from repossessing the motor vehicle. The buyer is not in default if they file for bankruptcy.

Section 31 (section 550.39) provides that insurance polices are exempt up to a total of \$1,000,000.

Sections 32 to 37 (section 563.01) make conforming changes to allow court fee waivers.

Section 38 (section 571.72, subdivision 6) makes a conforming change to reference the specific subdivision that a proceeding can be brought under.

Section 39 (section 571.72, subdivision 8) updates the exemption notice to include medical assistance received by the enrollee or their dependent child.

Section 40 (section 571.72, subdivision 9) provides for objections to garnishments and the procedures for determining objections.

Section 41 (section 572.72, subdivision 10) makes conforming changes to the exemption notice.

Section 42 (section 571.911) makes conforming changes to exempt funds in accounts from garnishment when they are under a certain amount.

Section 43 (section 571.914, subdivision 1) creates procedures for objecting and requesting a hearing.

Section 44 (section 571.92) provides that the exemptions are available to debtors living in Minnesota.

Section 45 (section 571.921) amends several definitions.

Section 46 (section 571.922) amends limitations on wage garnishment.

Section 47 (section 571.924) amends notice requirements.

Section 48 (section 571.925) makes conforming changes to the form of notice.

Section 49 is uncodified and provides for garnishment form revisions.