

CHAPTER 20--S.F.No. 1741

An act relating to health; allowing a patient to enjoin collection actions taken by a nonprofit hospital if the hospital has failed to provide a financial assistance policy;proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 604.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[604.175] COMPLIANCE WITH DEBT COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) Any patient may bring an action to enjoin extraordinary collection actions taken by a nonprofit hospital if the hospital has failed to provide a plain language summary of the financial assistance policy. A prevailing patient is entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "extraordinary collection actions" means an action described in Code of Federal Regulations, title 26, section 1.501(r)-6;

(2) "financial assistance policy" means a written policy that meets the requirements described in Code of Federal Regulations, title 26, section 1.501(r)-4;

(3) "nonprofit hospital" means a hospital that claims federal tax status under United States Code, title 26, section 501(r); and

(4) "plain language summary" has the meaning given in Code of Federal Regulations, title 26, section 501(r)-1.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 2016, and applies to a nonprofit hospital on and after the date in 2016 when its fiscal year begins.

Presented to the governor May 6, 2015