

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1647

03/09/2015 Authored by Hilstrom, Atkins and Lien
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Commerce and Regulatory Reform
03/25/2015 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Civil Law and Data Practices
04/07/2015 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register
Read Second Time
04/15/2015 Referred to the Chief Clerk for Comparison with S. F. No. 1741
04/16/2015 Postponed Indefinitely

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to health; allowing a patient to enjoin collection actions taken by a
1.3 nonprofit hospital if the hospital has failed to provide a financial assistance
1.4 policy; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 604.
1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. [604.175] COMPLIANCE WITH DEBT COLLECTION
1.7 REQUIREMENTS.

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

1.12 (b) For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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

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

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