

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 1071

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Tran

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Hospitals; debt collection, determination of patient eligibility for financial assistance

5. Summary: This legislation requires every hospital to screen every patient to determine the patient's household income and whether the individual is eligible for medical assistance pursuant to the state plan for medical assistance, charity care, discounted care, or other financial assistance with the cost of medical care and provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no hospital shall engage in extraordinary collection actions to recover a debt for medical services against any patient until such hospital has performed such screening.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Indeterminate Fiscal Impact

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill requires all hospitals to screen patients for Medicaid, which could then result in a person being found Medicaid eligible leading to an increase in program costs. However, the Department of Medical Assistance Services reports that many hospitals already process Medicaid applications for hospitalized individuals and thus fulfill the requirements of the bill. Aside from these general assumptions, DMAS does not have readily available data to estimate a potential costs for this bill. As such, the fiscal impact is indeterminate.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:
Department of Medical Assistance Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None