

## 2022 SESSION

INTRODUCED

22103960D

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1071

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 12, 2022

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 32.1 a section numbered 32.1-137.09, relating to hospitals; debt collection; determination of patient eligibility for financial assistance.*

Patrons—Tran, Hudson, Murphy and Subramanyam

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

#### Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 32.1 a section numbered 32.1-137.09 as follows:

#### § 32.1-137.09. *Financial assistance; payment plans.*

A. Every hospital shall 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.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no hospital shall engage in any extraordinary collection action, as described in §501(r) of the Internal Revenue Code as it was in effect on January 1, 2020, to recover a debt for medical services against any patient until such hospital has complied with the provisions of subsection A.

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