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**HOUSE BILL NO. 580**

House Amendments in [ ] — February 4, 1994

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 65.2-601.1, relating to workers' compensation; resolution and collection of health care provider fees.*

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Patrons—Cohen; Senator: Miller, Y.B.

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Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 65.2-601.1 as follows:**

*§ 65.2-601.1. Effect of filing claim; stay of debt collection activities by health care providers.*

*A. Whenever an employee makes a claim pursuant to § 65.2-601, all health care providers, as defined in § 8.01-581.1, shall refrain from all debt collection activities [ relating to medical treatment received by the employee in connection with such claim ] until an award is made on the employee's claim pursuant to § 65.2-704.*

*B. For the purpose of this section, "debt collection activities" means repeatedly calling or writing to the employee and threatening either to turn the matter over to a debt collection agency or to an attorney for collection, enforcement or filing of other process. The term shall not include routine billing or inquiries about the status of the claim.*

ENGROSSED

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