

S 355

COVID-19 Medical Debt Collection Relief Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Feb 22, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Feb 22, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/355>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MD • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 22, 2021
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 20, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 22, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

COVID-19 Medical Debt Collection Relief Act of 2021

This bill temporarily limits certain activities to collect medical debts by health care providers that apply for, or accept, COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus 2019) financial relief.

Specifically, such health care providers must suspend extraordinary collection actions, such as selling a debt to a third-party collector or placing a lien on an individual's property, until the later of the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency or 18 months after the enactment of this bill.

Further, such health care providers must notify individuals who have entered into medical debt repayment plans that they may request the suspension of payments during such period. Providers must provide reasonable repayment options for individuals once repayments resume, such as extending repayment periods.

The bill also applies specified consumer protections to medical debt incurred for COVID-19-related testing and treatment between February 1, 2020, and 60 days after the COVID-19 public health emergency ends.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 22, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 22, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.