

2025 -- H 5235

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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A N A C T

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --
INTEREST AND USURY

Introduced By: Representatives Shallcross Smith, Handy, Furtado, Read, Speakman,
Noret, Casimiro, Finkelman, Baginski, and Corvese

Date Introduced: January 29, 2025

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6-26 of the General Laws entitled "Interest and Usury" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **6-26-11. Medical debt interest cap.**

4 (a) For purposes of this section "medical debt" means an obligation of a consumer to pay
5 an amount for the receipt of healthcare services as defined by § 27-81-3, products, or devices, owed
6 to a healthcare facility or a healthcare professional as defined by § 27-81-3

7 (b) Interest on medical debt shall be limited to the rate of interest equal to the weekly
8 average one-year constant maturity Treasury yield, but not less than one and a half percent per
9 annum (1.5% p.a.) nor more than four percent per annum (4% p.a.) as published by the Board of
10 Governors of the Federal Reserve System, for the calendar week preceding the date when the
11 consumer was first provided with a bill. Patients receiving financial assistance shall not be charged
12 any interest or late fees.

13 (c) The rate of interest provided in subsection (b) of this section shall only be applied to
14 new debt incurred after the effective date of this section.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS --
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- 1 This act would provide an interest rate cap on medical debt.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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