

CHAPTER 27

Original Senate File No. 169A

DEBT OBLIGATIONS

AN ACT to amend W.S. 9-1-415(a) and by creating new subsections (e) and (f) and W.S. 25-10-112(a) and (c); and to repeal 25-10-212 relating to collection of debts due the state; prohibiting use of collection agencies or commencing collections in specified instances; deleting the requirement that parents of juveniles committed to the state hospital under the Juvenile Court Act are liable for costs of hospitalization; providing procedures for billing from the state hospital; providing for waiver of obligations billed as specified; clarifying liability for costs related to involuntary hospitalization; and providing for an effective date.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

**Section 1.** W.S. 9-1-415(a) and by creating new subsections (e) and (f) and 25-10-112(a) and (c) are amended to read:

**9-1-415. Collection of debts due the state; discharge of uncollectible debts.**

(a) Except as provided in subsections (e) and (f) of this section, any office or agency of the state may use the services of a collection agency licensed in Wyoming to assist in the collection of debts due the state or any state office or agency.

(e) Before any billing for services, collections or use of the services of a collection agency, state institutions shall first make an administrative determination that all statutory requirements relative to patient billing have been followed in each case.

(f) No patient billing from the state hospital shall be collectible unless:

(i) The patient has been advised by certified mail before his treatment or stay at the hospital of his obligation to pay, the anticipated cost of the treatment and of his right to appeal and negotiate pursuant to W.S. 25-10-208; and

(ii) The patient has been provided with a monthly billing statement; and

(iii) The statutory requirements for the determination of patient billing have been followed.

**25-10-112. Liability for costs of detention, involuntary hospitalization and proceedings therefor.**

(a) The costs of detention, involuntary hospitalization and proceedings for detention or involuntary hospitalization shall be paid by the county of the person's residence, the board or the department as provided in this section. The county, the board or the department may recover the costs of detention as provided by law.

(c) A county's liability for costs terminates when the transportation of the patient to the state hospital commences, after which costs shall be borne by the state.

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**Section 2.** All outstanding debts owed to the state hospital by patients, former patients, or their families or guardians incurred for patient services before July 1, 1986, to the extent not covered by insurance are waived and null and void.

**Section 3.** W.S. 25-10-212 is repealed.

**Section 4.** This act is effective May 22, 1987.

Approved February 19, 1987.