

HB 2129 -- Debt Offsets for Unpaid Medical Bills

Sponsor: Cooper

Currently, the Department of Health and Senior Services processes claims submitted by hospitals and health care providers requesting an offset of income tax refunds to satisfy an outstanding debt owed by a taxpayer. This bill repeals the process by which the department requests offsets and instead authorizes an entity designated as a claim clearinghouse to process and verify requests for an offset for ambulance service providers of taxpayer income tax refunds and lottery winnings to satisfy outstanding debts for ambulance services received. Prior to utilizing the clearinghouse, an ambulance service provider must give certain notices to patients and allow for various levels of review and appeals of their claims. A collection assistance fee allocated between the clearinghouse and the Department of Revenue is assessed to each offset for the costs of collecting the debt. Claims for debts owed to ambulance service providers requesting an offset will receive the least priority as specified in Section 143.789, RSMo.