



House of Representatives

File No. 721

General Assembly

February Session, 2026

(Reprint of File No. 232)

Substitute House Bill No. 5127
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 27, 2026

**AN ACT CONCERNING CREDIT CARDS AND HEALTH AND
VETERINARY CARE SERVICES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2027) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Ancillary product" (A) means any product, other than a health
3 care service or veterinary service, that is sold by a health care provider
4 or veterinary care provider to a consumer who purchases a health care
5 service or veterinary service from such provider, and (B) does not
6 include any food product intended for animal consumption;

7 (2) "Consumer" means any individual who is physically present in
8 this state;

9 (3) "Health care provider" (A) means any person, including, but not
10 limited to, any facility or institution, licensed or certified by this state to
11 provide health care services to patients, and (B) in the case of an entity,
12 includes, but is not limited to, any employee, agent or independent

13 contractor of such entity acting in the course and scope of such
14 employee's, agent's or independent contractor's employment, agency or
15 authority;

16 (4) "Health care service" means any service or product, including, but
17 not limited to, any hospital, medical, surgical, dental, vision or
18 pharmaceutical service or product, provided to a patient in this state by
19 a health care provider acting within such provider's scope of practice;

20 (5) "Patient" means any individual in this state who receives any
21 health care service provided by a health care provider;

22 (6) "Person" means any individual, association, company, limited
23 liability company, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, trust or
24 other legal entity;

25 (7) "Quick response code" means a two-dimensional matrix barcode
26 that consists of blocks arranged in a grid and may be read by an imaging
27 device;

28 (8) "Third-party financing" (A) means any line of credit or loan
29 offered or extended by a third party, (B) includes, but is not limited to,
30 any open-end credit plan, as defined in 15 USC 1602, as amended from
31 time to time, offered or extended by a third party, and (C) does not
32 include any line of credit or loan offered or extended by a health care
33 provider or veterinary care provider to a consumer in which the
34 provider is the creditor;

35 (9) "Veterinary care provider" (A) means any veterinarian licensed
36 pursuant to chapter 384 of the general statutes, and (B) includes, but is
37 not limited to, any employee, agent or independent contractor of a
38 veterinarian licensed pursuant to chapter 384 of the general statutes
39 acting in the course and scope of such employee's, agent's or
40 independent contractor's employment, agency or authority; and

41 (10) "Veterinary service" means any service or product, including, but
42 not limited to, any hospital, medical, surgical, dental, vision or

43 pharmaceutical service or product, provided to an animal in this state
44 by a veterinary care provider acting within such provider's scope of
45 practice.

46 (b) On and after January 1, 2027, no health care provider or veterinary
47 care provider shall:

48 (1) Advertise, market, solicit, promote or offer any third-party
49 financing to a consumer:

50 (A) By including such provider's branding, or the branding of such
51 provider's practice, on any signage that is used to advertise, market,
52 solicit, promote, offer or extend any third-party financing to consumers;

53 (B) By providing the consumer with access to any software, or with
54 the address of any Internet web site or a hyperlink or quick response
55 code to any Internet web site, that (i) is maintained by or on behalf of a
56 third-party for the purpose of offering or extending third-party
57 financing to consumers, and (ii) includes such provider's branding or
58 the branding of such provider's practice;

59 (C) While the consumer is under the influence of general anesthesia,
60 conscious sedation, moderate sedation or nitrous oxide;

61 (D) While such health care provider is providing any health care
62 service to the patient; or

63 (E) While the consumer is in any area of a facility or institution that
64 is used to provide any health care service or veterinary service,
65 including, but not limited to, any examination room or operating room,
66 unless (i) such facility or institution does not include an area that is
67 separated from the areas of such facility or institution used to provide
68 health care services or veterinary services, or (ii) if such consumer's
69 animal or an animal under such consumer's care is receiving any
70 veterinary service, relocating such consumer to an area that is separated
71 from the areas of such facility or institution used to provide veterinary
72 services would not, in the veterinary care provider's professional

73 judgment, pose a risk of harm to such animal;

74 (2) Receive any financial incentive or compensation in exchange for
75 advertising, marketing, soliciting, promoting or offering any third-party
76 financing to a consumer;

77 (3) Complete an application for third-party financing, or any portion
78 thereof, for a consumer;

79 (4) Submit an application for third-party financing on behalf of a
80 consumer;

81 (5) Charge a third-party financing account for the cost of a health care
82 service or veterinary service, or any portion of the cost of such service,
83 before the date on which such service is provided to the patient or
84 animal receiving such service, except such provider may charge such
85 account for such cost, or such portion of such cost, prior to such date if
86 such provider has incurred such cost or such portion of such cost; or

87 (6) Charge a third-party financing account for the cost of any ancillary
88 product, or any portion of the cost of such product, unless the consumer
89 paying for the health care service or veterinary service associated with
90 such product (A) receives a receipt that identifies such product and the
91 cost of such product, or (B) separately consents, in writing, to purchase
92 such product.

93 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a
94 health care provider or veterinary care provider that, on or after January
95 1, 2027, engages in any discussion with a consumer concerning the terms
96 and conditions of third-party financing shall provide the following
97 written disclosure to the consumer in at least fourteen-point type and in
98 the primary language in which such provider communicates with such
99 consumer:

100 "THIRD-PARTY FINANCING DISCLOSURE

101 Any discussion of third-party financing involves a credit card, line of
102 credit or loan to help you finance or pay for treatment by this provider.

103 Such lending product IS NOT A PAYMENT PLAN WITH THIS
104 PROVIDER. It is a credit card, line of credit or loan from a third-party
105 lender. Your provider does not work for this company. Your provider
106 may not complete or submit any application for third-party financing
107 on your behalf.

108 You do not have to apply for third-party financing to pay your
109 provider. You may pay your provider in another manner. Your provider
110 may offer its own payment plan. You are encouraged to explore any
111 public or private insurance options that may cover your treatment.

112 The lender or creditor may offer a "promotional period" to pay back
113 the amount borrowed without interest. You should carefully consider
114 the terms of the promotion, and whether you may owe interest if the
115 promotional balance is not paid in full. Furthermore, if you miss a
116 payment or do not make a payment on time, you may have to pay a
117 penalty and/or a higher interest rate. If you do not pay the money that
118 you owe to the creditor or lender, your missed payments can appear on
119 your credit report and could hurt your credit score. You could also be
120 sued by the creditor or lender if you do not repay the money you owe.

121 If your provider has completed or submitted an application for third-
122 party financing on your behalf, you may file a complaint by contacting
123 the office of the Attorney General at (health care provider or veterinary
124 care provider inserts the address of the Attorney General's Internet web
125 site) or by calling (health care provider or veterinary care provider
126 inserts the telephone number of the office of the Attorney General).

127 (Consumer's signature)".

128 (2) No health care provider or veterinary care provider shall be
129 required to provide the written disclosure required under subdivision
130 (1) of this subsection in any instance in which such provider states that
131 such provider accepts third-party financing as a form of payment but
132 does not discuss the terms and conditions of such third-party financing.

133 (d) (1) On and after January 1, 2027, and except as provided in

134 subdivision (2) of this subsection, if any health care provider or
135 veterinary care provider sells any ancillary product to a consumer who
136 purchases such product with any third-party financing, such provider
137 shall, during the thirty-day period beginning on the date on which such
138 product was sold to such consumer:

139 (A) Allow the consumer to return such product to such provider; and

140 (B) Refund the full purchase price of such product to such consumer.

141 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be
142 construed to require any health care provider or veterinary care
143 provider to accept any returned ancillary product, or provide any
144 refund for any returned ancillary product, if:

145 (A) Such product was customized to an extent that would preclude
146 any individual or animal, other than the individual or animal for whom
147 such product was sold, from using such product; or

148 (B) After such product was sold to the consumer who purchased such
149 product, such returned product was (i) used, damaged or tampered
150 with, or (ii) stored in a manner that was inconsistent with the ancillary
151 product manufacturer's instructions and therefore may have caused
152 such product to have become adulterated, contaminated or
153 compromised.

154 (e) Nothing in subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section shall be
155 construed to abrogate or in any way interfere with any agreement
156 entered into by a health care provider or veterinary care provider prior
157 to January 1, 2027.

158 (f) Any violation of the provisions of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive,
159 of this section shall constitute an unfair or deceptive trade practice for
160 the purposes of subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes
161 and shall be enforced solely by the Attorney General. The provisions of
162 section 42-110g of the general statutes shall not apply to any such
163 violation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
-----------	------------------------	-------------

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes it an unfair trade practice enforced solely by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for health care providers or veterinarians to offer certain financing options to patients resulting in no fiscal impact to the state because the OAG has the expertise and resources to meet the requirements of the amendment.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5127 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING CREDIT CARDS AND HEALTH AND VETERINARY CARE SERVICES.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning January 1, 2027, this bill prohibits health care and veterinary care providers from:

1. promoting or offering to consumers third-party financing in certain ways;
2. receiving financial incentives or compensation related to promoting or offering third-party financing to a consumer;
3. completing any part of a consumer's application or submitting a consumer's application for third-party financing;
4. charging a third-party financing account for a health care or veterinary service, or any portion of its cost, before the date the service is provided, unless the cost is incurred earlier;
5. discussing third-party financing terms and conditions with a consumer without providing a written disclosure form; and
6. charging a third-party financing account for all or a portion of the cost of ancillary products unless the consumer (a) receives a receipt for the product or (b) consents in writing to purchase the product (it also specifies a 30-day period for the return and refund of most ancillary products).

It defines third-party financing as a line of credit, loan, or open-end credit plan (such as a credit card) that is offered or extended by a third

party. It does not include a line of credit or loan from a health care or veterinary provider who is the creditor.

The bill does not affect agreements providers entered into before January 1, 2027.

Violations of the bill are Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) violations that are enforceable by the attorney general, and not by private causes of action or class actions (see BACKGROUND).

*House Amendment "A" (1) applies the bill to third-party financing and not just to credit cards or medical credit cards; (2) removes provisions (a) on charging a card for a service covered by a health or veterinary benefits plan or when an alternative service is covered, (b) that the bill cannot be construed to require a provider to delay or prohibit care, (c) on charging a card for out-of-pocket expenses, and (d) permitting Department of Consumer Protection regulations; (3) changes provisions on advertising and assisting consumer applications and adds a disclosure form requirement; (4) allows charging an account before the service date for costs incurred earlier; (5) allows use of third-party financing for ancillary products when the consumer gets a receipt for them and excludes food for animals from the definition of ancillary products; (6) changes the bill's effective date from October 1, 2026 to January 1, 2027; and (7) makes minor and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

APPLICABLE PROVIDERS AND SERVICES

The bill applies to licensed (1) individuals, facilities, and institutions that provide health care services to patients and an entity's employees, agents, or independent contractors acting within the scope of their responsibilities and (2) veterinarians and their employees, agents, and independent contractors acting within the scope of their responsibilities.

It defines health care and veterinary services as services and products provided to a patient by a health care provider, or to an animal by a veterinary care provider, within the provider's scope of practice. They

include hospital, medical, surgical, dental, vision, and pharmaceutical services or products.

PROHIBITIONS ON PROMOTING OR OFFERING THIRD-PARTY FINANCING

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill prohibits health and veterinary care providers from advertising, marketing, soliciting, promoting, or offering third-party financing:

1. by using the provider's or practice's brand on a sign;
2. by giving a consumer access to software or a website (by giving an address, hyperlink, or quick response (QR) code) if it includes the provider's or practice's branding and is used by a third-party for this type of financing;
3. to a consumer who is under the influence of general anesthesia, conscious or moderate sedation, or nitrous oxide;
4. while the consumer is receiving health care services; or
5. when the consumer is in part of a facility used for services, such as an examination or operating room, unless (a) the facility does not have a separate area or (b) relocating a consumer to a separate area from the one where an animal is receiving services would not risk harm to the animal, in the provider's professional judgment.

A QR code is a two-dimensional matrix barcode that consists of blocks arranged in a grid and may be read by an imaging device (such as a smart phone camera).

DISCUSSING THIRD-PARTY FINANCING AND DISCLOSURE FORM

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill requires providers who discuss terms and conditions of third-party financing to give consumers the following written disclosure in at least 14 point type and in the language the provider primarily uses with the consumer:

“THIRD-PARTY FINANCING DISCLOSURE

Any discussion of third-party financing involves a credit card, line of credit or loan to help you finance or pay for treatment by this provider. Such lending product IS NOT A PAYMENT PLAN WITH THIS PROVIDER. It is a credit card, line of credit or loan from a third-party lender. Your provider does not work for this company. Your provider may not complete or submit any application for third-party financing on your behalf.

You do not have to apply for third-party financing to pay your provider. You may pay your provider in another manner. Your provider may offer its own payment plan. You are encouraged to explore any public or private insurance options that may cover your treatment.

The lender or creditor may offer a "promotional period" to pay back the amount borrowed without interest. You should carefully consider the terms of the promotion, and whether you may owe interest if the promotional balance is not paid in full. Furthermore, if you miss a payment or do not make a payment on time, you may have to pay a penalty and/or a higher interest rate. If you do not pay the money that you owe to the creditor or lender, your missed payments can appear on your credit report and could hurt your credit score. You could also be sued by the creditor or lender if you do not repay the money you owe.

If your provider has completed or submitted an application for third-party financing on your behalf, you may file a complaint by contacting the office of the Attorney General at (health care provider or veterinary care provider inserts the address of the Attorney General's Internet web site) or by calling (health care provider or veterinary care provider inserts the telephone number of the office of the Attorney General).

(Consumer's signature).”

A provider can state that he or she accepts third-party financing as payment without providing the disclosure if the financing's terms and conditions are not discussed.

ANCILLARY PRODUCTS

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill prohibits health and veterinary care providers from charging a third-party financing account for the cost of an ancillary product unless the consumer paying for a related service (1) gets a receipt identifying the product and its cost or (2) consents in writing to purchase the product.

Beginning on this same date, the bill sets a 30-day return and refund period for ancillary products bought by consumers from providers using third-party financing. This does not apply if the product (1) was customized in a way that would prevent another person or animal from using it or (2) after being sold to the consumer, was used, damaged, tampered with, or stored in a way that did not match the manufacturer's instructions that may cause adulteration, contamination, or compromise.

The bill defines an ancillary product as a product that is not a health care or veterinary service and is sold by the provider to a consumer who purchased a health care or veterinary service from the provider. It does not include food for animals.

BACKGROUND

CUTPA

By law, CUTPA prohibits businesses from engaging in unfair and deceptive acts or practices. It allows the Department of Consumer Protection commissioner, under specified procedures, to issue regulations defining an unfair trade practice, investigate complaints, issue cease and desist orders, order restitution in cases involving less than \$10,000, impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000, enter into consent agreements, ask the attorney general to seek injunctive relief, and accept voluntary statements of compliance. It also allows individuals to sue. Courts may issue restraining orders; award actual and punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees; and impose civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for willful violations and up to \$25,000 for a restraining order violation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 2 (03/11/2026)