

By: Talarico

H.B. No. 4234

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to establishing an account to create a program to pay off
3 certain outstanding debts attributed to medical expenses; making an
4 appropriation.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 403, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 403.1101 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 403.1101. MEDICAL DEBTS REPAYMENT ACCOUNT. (a) The
9 comptroller shall establish an account to create a program to pay
10 off for certain individuals who reside in this state outstanding
11 debts attributed to medical expenses.

12 (b) An individual is eligible to have outstanding medical
13 debts paid off only if the individual is a resident of this state
14 and has:

15 (1) a household income of 400 percent of the federal
16 poverty level or less; or

17 (2) debts attributed to medical expenses in a total
18 amount that exceeds five percent of the individual's annual income.

19 (c) In implementing the program, the comptroller shall work
20 directly with hospitals, debt collection agencies, and others to
21 purchase an individual's medical debts at a reduced price.

22 (d) The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to
23 establish the account and to create the program to pay off
24 outstanding debts attributed to medical expenses.

1 SECTION 2. The amount of \$100 million is appropriated from
2 the general revenue fund to the comptroller of public accounts of
3 the State of Texas for the state fiscal biennium beginning
4 September 1, 2023, to provide the payments required by Section 1 of
5 this Act and to pay costs incurred by the comptroller in
6 facilitating the program established under that section.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.