

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy and Senator Thomas

309-2071-99

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to the tobacco lawsuit  
settlement; providing an appropriation to the  
Department of Health for disbursement to  
specified counties to reimburse them for  
tobacco-related medical costs; providing an  
effective date.

WHEREAS, Florida has received an historic and  
substantial settlement from the nation's tobacco companies,  
and

WHEREAS, the funds from that settlement have been  
placed in the control of the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Senate has taken the position that  
these funds shall be used to provide, among other things,  
health services for persons suffering from tobacco-related  
illnesses, and

WHEREAS, rural counties with populations of fewer than  
75,000 have expended large sums of taxpayer dollars for the  
purpose of treating indigent patients suffering from  
tobacco-related illnesses, and

WHEREAS, reimbursement for such treatment is a  
legitimate expenditure of the tobacco settlement funds  
according to the Florida Senate, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. The sum of \$2 million from nonrecurring  
tobacco settlement trust funds is appropriated to the  
Department of Health for the purpose of reimbursing rural

1 counties for expenditures associated with treating indigent  
2 patients suffering from tobacco-related illnesses.

3 Section 2. The Department of Health is directed to  
4 disburse funds appropriated pursuant to this act to the  
5 counties in the amounts listed below for Fiscal Year  
6 1999-2000:

	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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8	<u>Baker</u>	<u>\$37,000</u>
9	<u>Bradford</u>	<u>\$33,000</u>
10	<u>Calhoun</u>	<u>\$35,500</u>
11	<u>Columbia</u>	<u>\$157,000</u>
12	<u>DeSoto</u>	<u>\$74,000</u>
13	<u>Dixie</u>	<u>\$39,500</u>
14	<u>Flagler</u>	<u>\$59,500</u>
15	<u>Franklin</u>	<u>\$22,000</u>
16	<u>Gadsden</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>
17	<u>Gilchrist</u>	<u>\$7,500</u>
18	<u>Glades</u>	<u>\$14,000</u>
19	<u>Gulf</u>	<u>\$21,500</u>
20	<u>Hamilton</u>	<u>\$31,000</u>
21	<u>Hardee</u>	<u>\$37,000</u>
22	<u>Hendry</u>	<u>\$77,000</u>
23	<u>Holmes</u>	<u>\$61,000</u>
24	<u>Jackson</u>	<u>\$145,500</u>
25	<u>Jefferson</u>	<u>\$17,500</u>
26	<u>Lafayette</u>	<u>\$4,500</u>
27	<u>Levy</u>	<u>\$76,000</u>
28	<u>Liberty</u>	<u>\$7,000</u>
29	<u>Madison</u>	<u>\$51,000</u>
30	<u>Nassau</u>	<u>\$83,000</u>
31	<u>Okeechobee</u>	<u>\$122,500</u>

1	<u>Putnam</u>	<u>\$260,500</u>
2	<u>Sumter</u>	<u>\$90,000</u>
3	<u>Suwannee</u>	<u>\$97,000</u>
4	<u>Taylor</u>	<u>\$76,000</u>
5	<u>Union</u>	<u>\$14,000</u>
6	<u>Wakulla</u>	<u>\$35,500</u>
7	<u>Walton</u>	<u>\$77,000</u>
8	<u>Washington</u>	<u>\$36,500</u>
9	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.	
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11	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN	
12	COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR	
13	<u>SB 2044</u>	
14	Provides an appropriation of \$2 million from non-recurring	
15	tobacco settlement trust funds to the Department of Health to	
16	reimburse rural counties for expenditures associated with	
17	treating indigent patients suffering from tobacco-related	
18	illnesses.	
19	Directs the Department of Health to disburse funds	
20	appropriated to the counties pursuant to the amounts specified	
21	in law for Fiscal Year 1999-2000.	
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