

By Representative Lacasa

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the county public hospital  
3           surtax; amending s. 212.055, F.S.; revising  
4           provisions that require the counties authorized  
5           to levy the surtax to annually appropriate a  
6           specified minimum amount for operation,  
7           administration, and maintenance of the county  
8           public general hospital; providing an effective  
9           date.

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11           WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Public Health Trust  
12           receives revenue from a half-penny sales tax surcharge which  
13           yields in excess of \$120 million a year, and

14           WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County government matches at  
15           least 80 percent of these revenues, and

16           WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Public Health Trust has  
17           accumulated a reserve of over \$250 million, and

18           WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is faced with the fourth  
19           most heavily congested roadways in the nation, and

20           WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County will put a measure before  
21           the voters that would allow for a penny sales tax for  
22           transportation infrastructure improvements, and

23           WHEREAS, the contributions made by Miami-Dade County to  
24           the Public Health Trust can and should be used to resolve the  
25           immediate problems faced by the county, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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29           Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5) of section  
30           212.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1           212.055 Discretionary sales surtaxes; legislative  
2 intent; authorization and use of proceeds.--It is the  
3 legislative intent that any authorization for imposition of a  
4 discretionary sales surtax shall be published in the Florida  
5 Statutes as a subsection of this section, irrespective of the  
6 duration of the levy. Each enactment shall specify the types  
7 of counties authorized to levy; the rate or rates which may be  
8 imposed; the maximum length of time the surtax may be imposed,  
9 if any; the procedure which must be followed to secure voter  
10 approval, if required; the purpose for which the proceeds may  
11 be expended; and such other requirements as the Legislature  
12 may provide. Taxable transactions and administrative  
13 procedures shall be as provided in s. 212.054.

14           (5) COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL SURTAX.--Any county as  
15 defined in s. 125.011(1) may levy the surtax authorized in  
16 this subsection pursuant to an ordinance either approved by  
17 extraordinary vote of the county commission or conditioned to  
18 take effect only upon approval by a majority vote of the  
19 electors of the county voting in a referendum. In a county as  
20 defined in s. 125.011(1), for the purposes of this subsection,  
21 "county public general hospital" means a general hospital as  
22 defined in s. 395.002 which is owned, operated, maintained, or  
23 governed by the county or its agency, authority, or public  
24 health trust.

25           (d) The county may ~~shall~~ continue to contribute each  
26 year up to ~~at least~~ 80 percent of that percentage of the total  
27 county budget appropriated for the operation, administration,  
28 and maintenance of the county public general hospital from the  
29 county's general revenues in the fiscal year of the county  
30 ending September 30, 1991.

31           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Provides discretion to the counties authorized to levy the county public hospital surtax to annually appropriate less than 80 percent of the base-year percentage of the total county budget appropriated for operation, administration, and maintenance of the county public general hospital. Current law requires annual appropriation of at least 80 percent of such base-year percentage.