

By Representative Crady

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to financial responsibility for  
3           indigent hospital patients; amending s.  
4           154.306, F.S.; providing for excluding  
5           active-duty military personnel and certain  
6           institutionalized county residents from state  
7           population estimates when calculating a  
8           county's financial responsibility for  
9           hospitals' treatment of the county's indigent  
10          residents; providing an effective date.

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

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14           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 154.306, Florida  
15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16           154.306 Financial responsibility for certified  
17 residents who are qualified indigent patients treated at an  
18 out-of-county participating hospital or regional referral  
19 hospital.--Ultimate financial responsibility for treatment  
20 received at a participating hospital or a regional referral  
21 hospital by a qualified indigent patient who is a certified  
22 resident of a county in the State of Florida, but is not a  
23 resident of the county in which the participating hospital or  
24 regional referral hospital is located, is the obligation of  
25 the county of which the qualified indigent patient is a  
26 resident. Each county shall reimburse participating hospitals  
27 or regional referral hospitals as provided for in this part,  
28 and shall provide or arrange for indigent eligibility  
29 determination procedures and resident certification  
30 determination procedures as provided for in rules developed to  
31 implement this part. The agency, or any county determining

1 eligibility of a qualified indigent, shall provide to the  
2 county of residence, upon request, a copy of any documents,  
3 forms, or other information, as determined by rule, which may  
4 be used in making an eligibility determination.

5 (1) A county's financial obligation for each certified  
6 resident who qualifies as an indigent patient under this part,  
7 and who has received treatment at an out-of-county hospital,  
8 shall not exceed 45 days per county fiscal year at a rate of  
9 payment equivalent to 100 percent of the per diem  
10 reimbursement rate currently in effect for the out-of-county  
11 hospital under the medical assistance program for the needy  
12 under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, as amended, except  
13 that those counties that are at their 10-mill cap on October  
14 1, 1991, shall reimburse hospitals for such services at not  
15 less than 80 percent of the hospital Medicaid per diem.  
16 However, nothing in this section shall preclude a hospital  
17 that has a formal signed agreement with a county to treat such  
18 county's indigents from negotiating a higher or lower per diem  
19 rate with the county. No county shall be required to pay more  
20 than the equivalent of \$4 per capita in the county's fiscal  
21 year. The agency shall calculate and certify to each county  
22 by March 1 of each year, the maximum amount the county may be  
23 required to pay by multiplying the most recent official state  
24 population estimate for the total population of the county by  
25 \$4 per capita. For the purpose of computing the maximum amount  
26 that the county may be required to pay, the agency must reduce  
27 the official state population estimates by the number of  
28 inmates and patients residing in the county in institutions  
29 operated by the Federal Government, the Department of  
30 Corrections, the Department of Health, or the Department of  
31 Children and Family Services, and by the number of active-duty

1 military personnel residing in the county, all of whom shall  
2 not be considered to be residents of the county.Each county  
3 shall certify to the agency within 60 days after the end of  
4 the county's fiscal year, or upon reaching the \$4 per capita  
5 threshold, should that occur before the end of the fiscal  
6 year, the amount of reimbursement it paid to all out-of-county  
7 hospitals under this part. The maximum amount a county may be  
8 required to pay to out-of-county hospitals for care provided  
9 to qualified indigent residents may be reduced by up to  
10 one-half, provided that the amount not paid has or is being  
11 spent for in-county hospital care provided to qualified  
12 indigent residents.

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

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15 SENATE SUMMARY

16 Provides that, in using the formula set forth in s.  
17 154.306, F.S., to calculate a county's responsibility to  
18 pay for hospital treatment of indigent residents of that  
19 county, the Agency for Health Care Administration must  
20 subtract from the official state population estimate the  
21 number of active-duty military personnel residing in the  
22 county and the number of inmates and patients who are  
23 residing in specified institutions in that county.  
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