

By Senators Mitchell, Smith, Lee and Miller

4-369A-01

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 procedures for  
5           computing the maximum amount that specified  
6           counties must pay for the treatment of an  
7           indigent resident of the county at a hospital  
8           located outside the county; providing for the  
9           exclusion of active-duty military personnel and  
10          certain institutionalized county residents from  
11          state population estimates when calculating a  
12          county's financial responsibility for such  
13          hospital care; requiring the county of  
14          residence to accept the hospital's  
15          documentation of financial eligibility and  
16          county residence; requiring that the  
17          documentation meet specified criteria;  
18          providing an effective date.

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

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22           Section 1. Present subsections (3) and (4) of section  
23   154.306, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4)  
24   and (5), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to  
25   that section, to read:

26           154.306 Financial responsibility for certified  
27   residents who are qualified indigent patients treated at an  
28   out-of-county participating hospital or regional referral  
29   hospital.--Ultimate financial responsibility for treatment  
30   received at a participating hospital or a regional referral  
31   hospital by a qualified indigent patient who is a certified

1 resident of a county in the State of Florida, but is not a  
2 resident of the county in which the participating hospital or  
3 regional referral hospital is located, is the obligation of  
4 the county of which the qualified indigent patient is a  
5 resident. Each county shall reimburse participating hospitals  
6 or regional referral hospitals as provided for in this part,  
7 and shall provide or arrange for indigent eligibility  
8 determination procedures and resident certification  
9 determination procedures as provided for in rules developed to  
10 implement this part. The agency, or any county determining  
11 eligibility of a qualified indigent, shall provide to the  
12 county of residence, upon request, a copy of any documents,  
13 forms, or other information, as determined by rule, which may  
14 be used in making an eligibility determination.

15 (3) For the purpose of computing the maximum amount  
16 that a county having a population of 100,000 or less may be  
17 required to pay, the agency must reduce the official state  
18 population estimates by the number of inmates and patients  
19 residing in the county in institutions operated by the Federal  
20 Government, the Department of Corrections, the Department of  
21 Health, or the Department of Children and Family Services, and  
22 by the number of active-duty military personnel residing in  
23 the county, all of whom shall not be considered residents of  
24 the county. However, a county is entitled to receive the  
25 benefit of such a reduction in estimated population figures  
26 only if the county accepts as valid and true, and does not  
27 require any reverification of, the documentation of financial  
28 eligibility and county residency which is provided to it by  
29 the participating hospital or regional referral hospital. The  
30 participating hospital or regional referral hospital must

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1 provide documentation that is complete and in the form  
2 required by s. 154.3105.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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6 SENATE SUMMARY

7 Provides procedures for computing the maximum amount that  
8 any county having a population of 100,000 or less must  
9 pay for the treatment of an indigent resident of the  
10 county at a hospital located outside the county. Provides  
11 for excluding active-duty military personnel and certain  
12 institutionalized county residents from state population  
13 estimates when calculating a county's financial  
14 responsibility for such hospital care. Requires the  
15 county of residence to accept the hospital's  
16 documentation of financial eligibility and county  
17 residence. Requires that the documentation meet specified  
18 criteria.