

By the Committees on Appropriations; Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care; and Senator Saunders

309-2546-03

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to indigent health care;
creating s. 154.317, F.S.; establishing
reimbursement procedures and guidelines for the
reimbursement of trauma centers by counties;
providing for the payment and use of certain
funds; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 154.317, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

154.317 County financial responsibility for trauma care.--

(1) Notwithstanding ss. 154.301-154.316, each county shall participate in supporting a regionalized system of trauma care which provides reimbursement to hospitals that are trauma centers, approved in accordance with s. 395.4025. Financial responsibility shall be limited to uninsured or underinsured inpatients with primary or secondary diagnoses of DRG 484-487. For purposes of this section, the term, "underinsured" means insurance coverage for a person who is an inpatient which is inadequate to cover the cost of that patient's care.

(2) Payment levels may not exceed the statewide average cost per trauma patient in each level of designated trauma center. Initial payment rates, subject to annual updates by the Agency for Health Care Administration are:

- (a) Level I: \$14,000 per trauma patient;
- (b) Level II: \$9,000 per trauma patient; and
- (c) Pediatric: \$6,000 per trauma patient.

1 (3) Counties shall be designated as responsible for
2 payment if:

3 (a) The county of residence has unspent funds received
4 under this part at the end of the fiscal year in which the
5 hospitalization occurs.

6 (b) The responsible county is exempt based on the
7 following criteria:

8 1. The county population in the most recent United
9 States Census totals fewer than 30,000 residents and the
10 proportion of county residents with incomes below the poverty
11 level exceeds 20 percent;

12 2. The property tax rate, including special districts
13 and municipal service taxes, of the county equals or exceeds
14 10 mills; or

15 3. The responsible county is currently contributing to
16 the financial support of a regional trauma system through
17 direct funding of trauma care, tax district support for
18 hospitals in the county designated as trauma centers, or under
19 the terms of an intergovernmental agreement with other
20 counties in the trauma region or a written agreement with the
21 nearest trauma center.

22 (c) Residence in the county at the time of the
23 hospitalization is verified by:

24 1. Current active driver's license;

25 2. Mortgage, lease, or rental receipt or letter from a
26 landlord;

27 3. Water, electric, or other public utility bill in
28 the name of the patient or a family member at a residential
29 address within the county;

30 4. A state, county, or federal document mailed to the
31 patient at a residential address within the county;

1 5. Vehicle registration in the name of the patient or
2 a family member at a residential address within the county;

3 6. Voter registration; or

4 7. Proof of children enrolled in public schools within
5 the county.

6 (4) Each county shall pay the amount specified in this
7 section, as determined by the Agency for Health Care
8 Administration, into the Medicaid Grants and Donations Trust
9 Fund. These funds shall be used in special Medicaid payments
10 to enhance the public funds available for federal matching
11 purposes. The total special Medicaid payments funded by these
12 county payments shall be paid to state-approved trauma centers
13 and shall be distributed in accordance with the General
14 Appropriations Act or other legislation related to
15 appropriations.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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18 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
20 CS for Senate Bill 696

21 The Committee Substitute removes Section 1 of the bill that
22 increases the annual cap from \$4 to \$6 per capita which is
used to establish a county's maximum financial obligation.

23 Requires counties to pay funds into the Grants and Donations
24 Trust Fund. The Agency for Health Care Administration must
25 distribute these funds for special Medicaid payments to
state-approved trauma centers in accordance with the General
Appropriations Act or other legislation.