

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: [HB 4007](#)

TITLE: Martin County

SPONSOR(S): Snyder

COMPANION BILL: None

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

15 Y, 0 N



[Health Care Facilities & Systems](#)



[State Affairs](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill revises several provisions related to the funding of indigent care in Martin County, including:

- Requiring the Martin County Board of County Commissioners to establish a process for the distribution of funds from the County Health Care Fund (Fund) to be disbursed between all licensed hospitals in Martin County.
- Providing criteria to qualify as an indigent resident who is eligible for services paid for by the Fund.
- Repealing provisions regarding the County Health Care Review Board.

The bill also repeals a special act that authorizes the county to seek repayment for indigent care and other welfare services by placing a lien on the real and personal property of recipients of those funds.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill revises several provisions related to the funding of indigent care in Martin County. The bill requires the Martin County Board of County Commissioners to create an ordinance establishing a process for the distribution of funds from the [County Health Care Fund \(Fund\)](#) to be disbursed between all licensed hospitals in Martin County. This process would replace the current procedure by which the board of county commissioners receives recommendations from the [County Health Care Review Board \(Review Board\)](#) concerning which indigent residents should receive assistance from the fund for hospitalization and other healthcare costs. (Section [2](#))

The bill provides criteria to qualify as an indigent resident eligible for services paid for by the Fund. Specifically, the bill provides that the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Be a resident of Martin County for at least six months before the applicant's hospitalization;
- The applicant's family unit does not exceed the household gross income equivalent to 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines;
- Be ineligible for Medicaid or another third-party payor program; and
- Have liquid assets of \$8,000 or less. (Section [2](#))

The bill repeals provisions regarding the Review Board. (Section [2](#))

The bill also repeals [a special act that authorizes the county to seek repayment for indigent care and other welfare services](#) by placing a lien on the real and personal property of recipients of those funds. (Section [1](#))

The bill provides an effective date of upon becoming a law. (Section [3](#))

STORAGE NAME: h4007a.IAS

DATE: 11/18/2025

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Martin County Health Care Fund \(Fund\)](#)

Current law authorizes the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to levy an ad valorem of at least 0.25 mills, but no more than two mills, for the purpose of providing funds to pay for health care services in Martin County.¹ The proceeds of this tax are paid into the Fund, which the BOCC may use to pay for:

- Hospitalizations of indigent residents that occur within the county;
- Administrative costs and costs of doctors' services related to in-county hospitalizations of indigent residents;
- Any health care programs that state law requires counties to fund;² and
- Other health care programs based upon a level of service to be determined by the board of county commissioners.³

Any unspent monies in the Fund at the end of the budget year remain in the Fund.⁴

The BOCC's use of Fund proceeds to pay for hospitalizations is based on recommendations from the [Review Board](#).⁵ The Review Board consists of five members:

- Two members of the BOCC, appointed by the BOCC chairperson;
- Two current or former members of the Martin Memorial Health Systems Board, or members of an affiliated board of committee, appointed by the chairperson of the Martin Memorial Health Systems Board.
- One member appointed by a majority of the other four members.⁶

The county's adopted rate for the Fund for fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 is 0.3046 mills, which is estimated to generate \$11.4 million in revenue.⁷ This amount is a 7.97 percent decrease in the millage rate from the previous year, although the dollar amount of ad valorem taxes collected increased by approximately \$400,000.⁸ The county estimates 391 residents received services through the Fund in FY 2024-25.⁹

[Liens for Indigent Care and Other Welfare Services](#)

Martin County is currently authorized to seek repayment for indigent care and other welfare services by placing a lien on the real and personal property of recipients of those funds.¹⁰ The county calculates the amount expended on each recipient and files a statement of expenditures with the clerk of the circuit court.¹¹ The filing of the statement creates a lien on the real and personal property of the recipients that operates in the same manner as a mortgage lien and are effective for 20 years.¹² The BOCC may discharge liens that cause undue hardship or unreasonable monetary loss.¹³

¹ Ch. 65-1906, s. 1, Laws of Fla., as amended by [ch. 2001-295, s. 1, Laws of Fla.](#)

² See e.g. [ch. 154, Part IV, F.S.](#) (Florida Health Care Responsibility Act, which requires each county to pay certain costs for indigent care for residents of that county who receive medical services in another county) and [s. 409.915, F.S.](#) (required county contributions to Medicaid).

³ Ch. 65-1906, s. 2, Laws of Fla., as amended by [ch. 2001-295, s. 1, Laws of Fla.](#)

⁴ Ch. 65-1906, s. 1, Laws of Fla., as amended by [ch. 2001-295, s. 1, Laws of Fla.](#)

⁵ Ch. 65-1906, s. 4, Laws of Fla., as amended by [ch. 2001-295, s. 1, Laws of Fla.](#)

⁶ Ch. 65-1906, s. 3, Laws of Fla., as amended by [chs. 2001-295, s. 1](#) and [2011-247, s. 1, Laws of Fla.](#)

⁷ Martin County Board of County Commissioners, [FY 2026 Tentative Budget](#), p. 50 (last visited Nov. 7 2025).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.* at 131.

¹⁰ Ch. 67-1702, s. 1, Laws of Fla.

¹¹ Ch. 67-1702, s. 2, Laws of Fla.

¹² Ch. 67-1702, ss. 3-4, Laws of Fla.

¹³ Ch. 67-1702, s. 5, Laws of Fla.

Local Bill Forms

The Florida Constitution prohibits the passage of any special act unless a notice of intention to seek enactment of the bill has been published as provided by general law or the act is conditioned to take effect only upon approval by referendum vote of the electors in the area affected.¹⁴ A legal advertisement of the proposed bill must be placed in a newspaper of general circulation or published on a publicly accessible website¹⁵ at least 30 days prior to the introduction of the local bill in the House or Senate.¹⁶ The bill was noticed in the [Treasure Coast Newspapers on September 19, 2025](#).

The House local bill policy requires a completed and signed Local Bill Certification Form and Economic Impact Statement Form be filed with the Clerk of the House at the time the local bill is filed or as soon thereafter as possible.¹⁷ Under the policy, a committee or subcommittee may not consider a local bill unless these forms have been filed. The following forms have been submitted for the bill:

- [Local Bill Certification Form](#)
- [Economic Impact Statement Form](#)

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee	15 Y, 0 N	11/18/2025	Darden	Burgess
Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee				
State Affairs Committee				

¹⁴ [Art. III, s. 10, Fla. Const.](#)

¹⁵ [S. 50.0311\(2\), F.S.](#)

¹⁶ [S. 11.02, F.S.](#) If there is no newspaper circulated throughout or published in the county and no publicly accessible website has been designated, notice must be posted for at least 30 days in at least three public places in the county, one of which must be at the courthouse.

¹⁷ Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee, [Local Bill Policies and Procedures Manual](#), p. 11 (last visited Nov. 7, 2025).