

1 HB132
2 145053-2
3 By Representatives Rogers, Moore (M) and Scott (N & P)
4 RFD: Jefferson County Legislation
5 First Read: 05-FEB-13

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9 A BILL
10 TO BE ENTITLED
11 AN ACT
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13 Relating to Jefferson County; to amend Section 14 of
14 Act 387 of the 1965 Regular Session (Acts 1965, p. 522), to
15 provide for the distribution of the proceeds from the Indigent
16 Care Fund to the Alabama Department of Public Health; to
17 require the department to use the funds for the delivery of
18 health care services to indigent persons of the county.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. Section 14 of Act 387 of the 1965 Regular
21 Session (Acts 1965, p. 522), is amended to read as follows:

22 "Section 14. (a) There is hereby established for the
23 county the County Indigent Care Fund herein called "the
24 Indigent Care Fund." ~~The~~ All funds in the Indigent Care Fund
25 shall be ~~used by the county for any or all of the following~~
26 ~~purposes~~ transferred to and administered by the Alabama
27 Department of Public Health or a health care authority created

1 for the delivery of health care services to indigent persons
2 of the county health care authority.

3 "(b) To The Alabama Department of Public Health or
4 a health care authority may acquire by construction, eminent
5 domain, or otherwise, a county hospital, and hospitals ~~and/or~~
6 clinics, to operate, equip and maintain the same for the
7 medical care and treatment of indigent persons of the county
8 suffering from illness, injury, disability or infirmity,
9 including out-patients; and the furnishings of drugs and
10 medicine to such indigent persons, including out-patient care
11 at ~~the county~~ a designated indigent care hospital or at a
12 clinic maintained by the ~~county~~ hospital or under contract
13 with the ~~county~~ department or the health care authority, also
14 the operation of an emergency clinic. In addition, the county
15 shall be authorized to furnish part of the cost of the medical
16 care for those of the county able to pay for only part of
17 their own medical care.

18 "(c) The ~~county~~ designated indigent care hospital
19 shall be authorized to provide such treatment, care, drugs and
20 medicines at a ~~county hospital,~~ out-patient clinic ~~and/or~~ and
21 emergency clinic or other hospitals located in the county
22 under a contract between the ~~county~~ hospital and any general
23 hospital approved by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of
24 Hospitals in the county.

25 "(d) The ~~county~~ designated indigent care hospital
26 shall be authorized to collect for the benefit of the
27 "Indigent Care Fund" such sums as the ~~county~~ hospital or the

1 health care authority is able to collect from "part-pay"
2 patients and from any other source of fund, public or private.
3 However, in construing this act and in defining the intent of
4 treatment for indigent sick, the ~~governing authorities~~
5 ~~dispensing said fund for care~~ department or the authority
6 shall cause any expectant mother to register for prenatal care
7 and if the recipient claim to need indigent care to enter upon
8 the record the name of the father of the child. The hospital
9 or the authority shall furnish immediately a copy to the
10 Circuit Solicitor. The Circuit Solicitor shall take steps to
11 collect from the father and shall report the efforts made
12 prior to dismissal and shall report further efforts at least
13 annually to ~~both the hospital and the governing authority of~~
14 ~~the county,~~ designated indigent care hospital or the
15 authority. ~~said~~The efforts to collect and reports shall not
16 extend beyond three years. ~~In event~~ If the named father denies
17 paternity or professes indigency or denies liability then the
18 solicitor shall prosecute in an action for paternity and
19 non-support. The ~~governing authority~~ Alabama Department of
20 Public Health shall make such rules and regulations with
21 respect to determining indigency of the mother and what may be
22 collected from her as they deem reasonable under the
23 circumstances. The above is supplemental to any existing
24 regulations for collection now in force.

25 "(e) The county each year shall earmark and set
26 aside in a separate fund not less than twenty-five percent
27 (25%) of the county indigent care fund to be used for capital

1 improvements. This requirement shall cease and no longer be
2 binding upon the county after a county hospital has been
3 constructed and fully equipped. Because funds are earmarked
4 for capital improvement, one percent of the funds shall be
5 distributed to the Alabama Department of Public Health or a
6 health care authority created to provide medical care for
7 indigent residents of this county for administering the
8 Indigent Care Fund on the tenth day of each month.

9 "(f) Any hospital created pursuant to this act shall
10 be known as the Cooper Green Mercy Hospital."

11 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
12 first day of the third month following its passage and
13 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.