

1 HB83
2 204236-1
3 By Representative Hill
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government
5 First Read: 04-FEB-20
6 PFD: 02/03/2020

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8 SYNOPSIS: Existing law does not provide any guidance
9 for a county or sheriff contracting with medical
10 providers to provide medical care to county
11 inmates.

12 This bill would authorize a county to pay a
13 provider of medical services any rate or fee agreed
14 upon, and, when there is no agreed upon rate, a
15 hospital providing care must be paid at the
16 then-current Medicare rate or fee schedule.

17
18 A BILL
19 TO BE ENTITLED
20 AN ACT

21
22 Relating to county jail inmates, to amend Section
23 14-6-19, Code of Alabama 1975, to further specify the
24 responsibilities of the county to provide medical care for
25 inmates.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. Section 14-6-19, Code of Alabama 1975, as
2 last amended by Act 19-306, 2019 Regular Session, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 "§14-6-19.

5 "(a) The sheriff of a county shall provide to
6 ~~prisoners~~ county inmates at the expense of the county, all of
7 the following:

8 "(1) Necessary clothing and bedding.

9 "(2) ~~Necessary~~ Except as otherwise provided by law
10 and excluding those costs governed by Sections 14-3-30 and
11 14-6-22, necessary medicine and medical attention to ~~those~~
12 ~~prisoners who are~~ any county inmate who is sick or injured,
13 when ~~they are~~ the inmate is unable to provide ~~them for~~
14 ~~themselves~~ for the cost of the medicines or medical attention
15 through payment, governmental benefit, or insurance.

16 "(3) Feminine hygiene products to female ~~prisoners~~
17 inmates, as soon as is practicable, upon request by the female
18 prisoner inmate.

19 "(b) For any county inmate, the county or its
20 contracted medical coordinating agent may pay to a provider of
21 medical services a rate or fee as agreed to by the county or
22 its contracted medical coordinating agent and the provider of
23 medical services. Provided, however, where there is no agreed
24 upon rate of the services, any hospital that receives any
25 state or local funding for construction or operation, and that
26 provides medical services to an inmate shall be paid by the

1 county or its agent an amount equal to the then-current
2 Medicare rate or fee schedule.

3 "(c) This section shall not make the county or its
4 agent responsible for the medical services provided to those
5 inmates as provided in Sections 14-3-30 and 14-6-22, or any
6 inmate for which another governmental entity is responsible
7 for such costs."

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