

1 SB573
2 140521-2
3 By Senator Blackwell (N & P)
4 RFD: Local Legislation No. 2
5 First Read: 01-MAY-12

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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 health care authority created in any Class 1
17 municipality during the 2012 Regular Session of the
18 Legislature for the delivery of health care services; and to
19 require the Jefferson County Commission to sell Cooper Green
20 Mercy Hospital including its property and assets to the
21 authority.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

25 "Section 14. There is hereby established for the
26 county the County Indigent Care Fund herein called "the
27 Indigent Care Fund." ~~The~~ All funds in the Indigent Care Fund

1 shall be transferred and used by the county for any or all of
2 the following purposes: health care authority established in
3 any Class 1 municipality by an act of the Legislature enacted
4 at the 2012 Regular Session for the operation of the authority
5 and the delivery of health care services.

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

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

25 ~~"The county shall be authorized to collect for the~~
26 ~~benefit of the "Indigent Care Fund" such sums as the county is~~
27 ~~able to collect from "part-pay" patients and from any other~~

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

21 "The county each year shall earmark and set aside in
22 a separate fund not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the
23 county indigent care fund to be used for capital improvements.
24 This requirement shall cease and no longer be binding upon the
25 county after a county hospital has been constructed and fully
26 equipped."

1 Section 2. The Jefferson County Commission shall
2 sell Cooper Green Mercy Hospital, including its property and
3 assets, to the Health Care Authority created in any Class 1
4 municipality by an act of the Legislature enacted during the
5 2012 Regular Session based on a value which shall be
6 established by the average of three appraisals by appraisers
7 who are experts in the field of health care valuations on at
8 least a regional basis.

9 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
10 first day of the third month following its passage and
11 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.