

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 2148

SPONSOR: Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care Committee and Senator Sebesta

SUBJECT: Indigent Care and Trauma Center Discretionary Sales Surtax

DATE: April 1, 2003

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Munroe</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>HC</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>CP</u>	<u> </u>
3.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>FT</u>	<u> </u>
4.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
5.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
6.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

I. Summary:

The bill continues the authorization for qualifying counties under section 212.055(4), Florida Statutes, to impose and collect an indigent care and trauma center surtax by repealing the scheduled October 1, 2005 repeal of this subsection. The clerk of the circuit court, as an ex officio custodian of the funds of the authorizing county, must prepare on a biennial basis an audit of the indigent care trust fund. Commencing February 1, 2004, the audit must be delivered to the governing body and to the chair of the legislative delegation of each authorizing county.

This bill revives and reenacts s. 212.055(4), F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Indigent Care and Trauma Center Surtax

Under s. 212.055(4), F.S., the governing body in each county the government of which is not consolidated with that of one or more municipalities, which has a population of at least 800,000 residents and is not authorized to levy a county public hospital surtax under subsection (5) of s. 212.055, F.S., may levy a discretionary sales surtax at a rate that may not exceed 0.5 percent. The surtax may be levied pursuant to the passage of an ordinance either approved by an extraordinary vote of the governing body or conditioned to take effect only upon approval by a majority vote of the electors of the county voting in a referendum.

The proceeds of the surtax must fund the provision of a broad range of health care services for both indigent persons and the medically poor who are residents of the county, including but not limited to, primary care and preventive care as well as hospital care established under a plan. The plan must also address services to be provided by the Level I trauma center. The indigent health care plan must emphasize a continuity of care in the most cost-effective setting, taking into

account both a high quality of care and geographic access. The plan must provide that agreements negotiated between the county and providers will include reimbursement methodologies that: take into account the cost of services rendered to eligible patients; recognize hospitals that render a disproportionate share of indigent care; provide other incentives to promote the delivery of charity care; promote the advancement of technology in medical services; recognize the level of responsiveness to medical needs in trauma cases; and require cost containment. The authority to levy this tax expires October 1, 2005.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill revives and reenacts s. 212.055(4), F.S., which grants authority to a county government that is not consolidated with one or more municipalities, with a population of at least 800,000 to impose and collect an indigent care and trauma center sales surtax of up to one half percent, which will otherwise expire on October 1, 2005. The clerk of the circuit court, as an ex officio custodian of the funds of the authorizing county, must prepare on a biennial basis an audit of the indigent care trust fund. Commencing February 1, 2004, the audit must be delivered to the governing body and to the chair of the legislative delegation of each authorizing county.

The effective date of the bill is upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on municipalities and the counties under the requirements of Article VII, s. 18 of the Florida Constitution.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on public records or open meetings issues under the requirements of Art. I, s. 24(a) and (b) of the Florida Constitution.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on the trust fund restrictions under the requirements of Article III, Subsection 19(f) of the Florida Constitution.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill continues the authorization for qualifying counties under s. 212.055(4), F.S., to impose and collect an indigent care and trauma center surtax. Hillsborough County is the only county currently imposing and collecting this surtax. In fiscal year 2002, Hillsborough County collected approximately \$72.6 million.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
