

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 659

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:
116 Y's 1 N's

SPONSOR: Rep. Harrell

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved

COMPANION BILLS: N/A

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 659 was passed by the House on April 27, 2011, and subsequently passed the Senate on May 2, 2011. The bill was approved by the Governor on June 17, 2011, chapter 2011-247, Laws of Florida, and took effect June 17, 2011. The bill changes the membership requirements of the Martin County Health Care Review Board. The change allows the chair of the Martin Memorial Health Systems Board to select two current or former members of the Martin Memorial Health Systems Board or an affiliated board or committee for service on the Martin County Health Care Review Board.

The bill does not have a fiscal impact.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

In 1939, the Legislature adopted ch. 19969 (1939), L.O.F., authorizing the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County (County Commissioners) to provide medication and hospitalization for indigent citizens of the county. The bill provided for the levy and collection of a tax not to exceed four (4) mills on the dollar per annum on the assessed valuation on all taxable real and personal property and to provide for a county budget item to be known as the "Medication and Hospitalization Fund."

In 1965, the Legislature adopted ch. 65-1906, L.O.F., which reduced the levy the County Commissioners were authorized to issue to not less than one fourth (1/4) nor more than two (2) mills and targeted the levy's use to paying for the hospitalization of indigent residents. The act required excess funds over the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) remaining in the fund at the end of the budget year to be paid into the general fund. The bill created a hospitalization review board to advise commissioners regarding payments of hospitalization. The act also repealed ch. 19969 (1939), L.O.F.

In 1967, the Legislature adopted ch. 67-1712, L.O.F., amending section 2 of ch. 65-1906, L.O.F., requiring any excess of funds in the fund at the end of the budget year to be paid into the general fund.

In 1978, the Legislature adopted ch. 78-558, L.O.F., amending section 2 of ch. 65-1906, L.O.F., as amended, expanding payments from the fund to include administrative costs and costs of doctors' services incidental to and included in the cost of hospital care.

2001 Changes

In 2001, the Legislature adopted ch.2001-295, L.O.F., amending sections 1 - 4 of ch.65-1906, L.O.F., as amended. The changes included updating language, changing the name of the county hospitalization fund to the County Health Care Fund (Fund), changing the name of the Hospitalization Review Board to the County Health Care Review Board (Review Board), and changing the name of the hospital board to the Martin Memorial Health Systems Board (Health Systems Board).

In addition, changes to section 1 expanded the purpose of assessed levies from providing funds for the hospitalization of indigent residents to the payment of health care services for residents of Martin County. The changes did not make any changes to the levy that may be assessed.

The 2001 bill also expanded the expenses that may be paid from the Fund to include:

- Hospitalizations of indigent Martin County residents that occur within the county;
- Related administrative costs and costs of doctors' services for in-county hospitalizations of indigent Martin County residents;
- Health care programs required by the Florida Statutes to be funded by counties; and
- Other health care programs based upon a level of service to be determined by the County Commissioners.

Finally, the 2001 bill requires that unexpended moneys in the Fund at the end of budget year are to remain in the Fund.

Current Review Board Composition

The Review Board is currently comprised of five members: two members of the County Commissioners appointed by its chair, two current members from the Health Systems Board appointed by its chair, and one at-large member chosen by the other four members of the Review Board.

Effect of the Bill

The bill amends section 3 of ch. 65-1906, L.O.F, as amended by ch.2001-295, L.O.F., relating to the composition of the Review Board. The bill changes the requirements for the two members from the Health Systems Board. The change allows the chair of the Health Systems Board to select current or former members of the Health Systems Board or an affiliated board or committee for service on the Review Board.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? January 3, 2011.

WHERE? *The Stuart News*, a daily paper of general circulation published in Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, Florida and distributed in Martin County, Florida.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes No