

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Lee Memorial Health System, Lee
 3 County; amending chapter 2000-439, Laws of Florida;
 4 providing quorum requirements for system board
 5 meetings; removing a requirement that the health
 6 system's annual audit and annual budget be filed with
 7 the clerk of the circuit court; revising provisions
 8 relating to purchasing real property, entering into
 9 financial agreements, and managing funds; providing a
 10 process by which the health system may convert to a
 11 nonprofit entity; providing construction; removing
 12 provisions relating to execution and enforcement of
 13 liens; providing for severability; providing an
 14 effective date.

15

16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17

18 Section 1. Section 7, subsections (4) and (7) of section
 19 10, and sections 13 and 18 of chapter 2000-439, Laws of Florida,
 20 are amended, and new sections 18 and 19 are added to that
 21 chapter, to read:

22 Section 7. The system board shall elect annually from its
 23 members a chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer, who shall
 24 be the officers of the system board. The system board shall
 25 cause true and accurate minutes and records to be kept of all

26 business transacted by the system board and shall keep full,
27 true, and complete books of accounts and records, which minutes,
28 records, and books of account and the current line item budget
29 shall at all reasonable times be open and subject to inspection
30 and copying pursuant to the provisions of the constitution and
31 laws of Florida. A majority of the members of the system board
32 shall constitute a quorum of the system board for the purpose of
33 conducting its business and exercising its powers and for all
34 other purposes. Action may be taken by the system board upon an
35 affirmative vote of a majority of those system board members
36 attending a system board meeting at which a quorum is in
37 attendance. All meetings of the system board shall be open to
38 the general public pursuant to general law. At least once a year
39 the system board shall cause the financial records and accounts
40 of the health care system to be audited by a certified public
41 accountant authorized to practice public accounting in Florida
42 and a certified public account audit report to be prepared. ~~The~~
43 ~~audit, together with a copy of the health system's current~~
44 ~~annual budget, shall be filed annually with the Clerk of the~~
45 ~~Circuit Court of Lee County.~~

46 Section 10. The Lee Memorial Health System Board of
47 Directors shall have the authority to operate and conduct the
48 business of the public health system, and consistent therewith,
49 shall have the following powers:

50 (4) The system board may make, or authorize its chief

51 executive officer to make, contracts of all kinds, including,
52 but not limited to, the sale or purchase of real property and
53 may enter into leases of real and personal property of any kind
54 or description, either as lessor or lessee. Any such purchase of
55 real property may be obtained, subject to one or more existing
56 mortgages or may be purchased by installment sale or purchase
57 money financing provided that any such assumed mortgage,
58 installment sale, or new mortgage shall be non-recourse to other
59 property of the system board.

60 (7) The system board may enter into any and all types of
61 derivative agreements as may be used by prudent borrowers,
62 lenders, or investors, which are intended to minimize the risk
63 of financial loss or maximize the financial return in connection
64 with its bonds, notes, or investments, or for any other purpose,
65 subject to the system board's investment policy referenced in
66 section 13.

67 Section 13. Funds of the Lee Memorial Health System may be
68 paid out ~~only~~ upon drafts, checks, wire transfers, electronic
69 bank transfers, or warrants signed or approved by persons duly
70 authorized by the system board to execute such instruments for
71 purposes consistent with this act. The system board may adopt
72 rules for the payment of lesser sums in cash, and a petty cash
73 fund or funds may be established for such purpose with the
74 maximum amount payable in cash in one transaction fixed by the
75 system chief executive officer. All funds of the system board

76 shall be deposited in banks which are qualified under state law
 77 to accept deposits of public funds. In addition to any
 78 investment ~~The system board may deposit or invest its surplus~~
 79 ~~funds in interest-bearing accounts, instruments, or securities,~~
 80 ~~to the fullest extent~~ permitted by general law, the system board
 81 is authorized and empowered to invest any funds in its control
 82 or possession in accordance with an investment policy approved
 83 by the system board consistent with section 218.415, Florida
 84 Statutes, and shall include, among other items, the investment
 85 objectives and permitted securities under the policy. Such
 86 investment policy shall be designed to maximize the financial
 87 return to the fund consistent with the risks incumbent in each
 88 investment and shall be designed to preserve the appropriate
 89 diversification of the portfolio. In addition, the system board
 90 may invest its surplus funds as provided in section 218.415,
 91 Florida Statutes, and in such other investments as are
 92 authorized by the system board and permitted by the system board
 93 investment policy follows:

94 ~~(1) Without limitation in:~~

95 ~~(a) Bonds, notes, or other obligations of the United~~
 96 ~~States or those guaranteed by the United States or for which the~~
 97 ~~credit of the United States is pledged for the payment of the~~
 98 ~~principal and interest or dividends thereof.~~

99 ~~(b) State bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the~~
 100 ~~state and revenue bonds additionally secured by the full faith~~

101 ~~and credit of the state.~~

102 ~~(c) Bonds of the several counties or districts in the~~
 103 ~~state containing a pledge of the full faith and credit of the~~
 104 ~~county or district involved.~~

105 ~~(d) Savings accounts in, or certificates of deposit of,~~
 106 ~~any bank, savings bank, or savings and loan association~~
 107 ~~incorporated under the laws of the United States doing business~~
 108 ~~and situated in this state, the accounts of which are insured by~~
 109 ~~the Federal Government or an agency thereof, in an amount that~~
 110 ~~does not exceed 15 percent of the net worth of the institution,~~
 111 ~~provided such savings accounts and certificates of deposit are~~
 112 ~~secured in the manner prescribed in chapter 280, Florida~~
 113 ~~Statutes.~~

114 ~~(e) Obligations of the Federal Farm Credit Banks and~~
 115 ~~obligations of the Federal Home Loan Bank and its district~~
 116 ~~banks.~~

117 ~~(f) Obligations of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage~~
 118 ~~Corporation including participation certificates.~~

119 ~~(g) Obligations guaranteed by the Government National~~
 120 ~~Mortgage Association.~~

121 ~~(h) Commercial paper of prime quality of the highest~~
 122 ~~letter and numerical rating as provided for by at least one~~
 123 ~~nationally recognized rating service.~~

124 ~~(i) Time drafts or bills of exchange drawn on and accepted~~
 125 ~~by a commercial bank, otherwise known as banker's acceptances,~~

126 ~~which are accepted by a member bank of the Federal Reserve~~
127 ~~System having total deposits of not less than \$400 million.~~

128 ~~(j) Short-term obligations not authorized elsewhere in~~
129 ~~this section, to be purchased individually or in pooled accounts~~
130 ~~or other collective investment funds, for the purpose of~~
131 ~~providing liquidity to any fund or portfolio.~~

132 ~~(k) Securities of, or other interest in, any open-end or~~
133 ~~closed-end management type investment company or investment~~
134 ~~trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, 15~~
135 ~~U.S.C. ss. 80a-1 et seq., as amended from time to time, provided~~
136 ~~that the portfolio of such investment company or investment~~
137 ~~trust is limited to obligations of the United States Government~~
138 ~~or any agency or instrumentality thereof and to repurchase~~
139 ~~agreements fully collateralized by such United States Government~~
140 ~~obligations and provided that such investment company or~~
141 ~~investment trust takes delivery of such collateral either~~
142 ~~directly or through an authorized custodian.~~

143 ~~(2) With no more than 25 percent of its funds in:~~

144 ~~(a) Bonds, notes, or obligations of any municipality or~~
145 ~~political subdivision or any agency or authority of this state,~~
146 ~~if such obligations are rated in any one of the three highest~~
147 ~~ratings by two nationally recognized rating services. However,~~
148 ~~if only one nationally recognized rating service shall rate such~~
149 ~~obligations, then such rating service must have rated such~~
150 ~~obligations in any one of the two highest classifications~~

151 ~~heretofore mentioned.~~

152 ~~(b) Notes secured by first mortgages on Florida real~~
153 ~~property, insured or guaranteed by the Federal Housing~~
154 ~~Administration or the United States Department of Veterans~~
155 ~~Affairs.~~

156 ~~(c) Mortgage pass-through certificates, meaning~~
157 ~~certificates evidencing ownership of an undivided interest in~~
158 ~~pools of conventional mortgages on real property which is~~
159 ~~improved by a building or buildings used for residential~~
160 ~~purposes for one to four families when:~~

161 ~~1. Such real property is located in this state;~~

162 ~~2. Such mortgages are originated by one or more banks or~~
163 ~~savings and loan associations organized under the laws of this~~
164 ~~state, by national banks or federal savings and loan~~
165 ~~associations having their principal place of business in this~~
166 ~~state, or by a lender that is approved by the Secretary of the~~
167 ~~United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for~~
168 ~~the participation in any mortgage insurance program under the~~
169 ~~National Housing Act and has its principal place of business in~~
170 ~~this state, or by any combination thereof; and~~

171 ~~3. Such mortgages are transferred or assigned to a~~
172 ~~corporate trustee acting for the benefit of the holders of such~~
173 ~~certificates.~~

174 ~~(d) Obligations of the Federal National Mortgage~~
175 ~~Association.~~

176 ~~(e) Group annuity contracts of the pension investment type~~
177 ~~with insurers licensed to do business in this state, except that~~
178 ~~amounts invested by the board with any one insurer shall not~~
179 ~~exceed 3 percent of its assets.~~

180 ~~(f) Certain interest in real property and related personal~~
181 ~~property, including mortgages and related instruments on~~
182 ~~commercial or industrial real property, with provisions for~~
183 ~~equity or income participation or with provisions for~~
184 ~~convertibility to equity ownership; and interest in collective~~
185 ~~investment funds. Associated expenditures for acquisition and~~
186 ~~operation of assets purchased under this provision shall be~~
187 ~~included as a part of the cost of the investment.~~

188 ~~1. The title to real property acquired under this~~
189 ~~paragraph shall be vested in the name of the respective fund.~~

190 ~~2. For purposes of taxation of property owned by any fund,~~
191 ~~the provisions of section 196.199(2)(b), Florida Statutes, do~~
192 ~~not apply.~~

193 ~~3. Real property acquired under the provisions of this~~
194 ~~paragraph shall not be considered state lands or public lands~~
195 ~~and property as defined in chapter 253, Florida Statutes, and~~
196 ~~the provisions of that chapter do not apply to such real~~
197 ~~property.~~

198 ~~(g) General obligations backed by the full faith and~~
199 ~~credit of a foreign government which has not defaulted on~~
200 ~~similar obligations for a minimum period of 25 years prior to~~

201 ~~purchase of the obligation and has met its payments of similar~~
202 ~~obligations when due.~~

203 ~~(h) Obligations of agencies of the government of the~~
204 ~~United States, provided such obligations have been included in~~
205 ~~and authorized by the Florida Retirement System Total Fund~~
206 ~~Investment Plan established in section 215.475, Florida~~
207 ~~Statutes.~~

208 ~~(i) United States dollar-denominated obligations by~~
209 ~~foreign governments, or political subdivisions or agencies~~
210 ~~thereof, or foreign corporations or foreign commercial entities.~~

211 ~~(3) With no more than 50 percent of its funds in common~~
212 ~~stock, preferred stock, and interest-bearing obligations of a~~
213 ~~corporation having an option to convert into common stock,~~
214 ~~provided:~~

215 ~~(a) The corporation is organized under the laws of the~~
216 ~~United States, any state or organized territory of the United~~
217 ~~States, or the District of Columbia.~~

218 ~~(b) The corporation is listed on any one or more of the~~
219 ~~recognized national stock exchanges in the United States and~~
220 ~~conforms with the periodic reporting requirements under the~~
221 ~~Securities Exchange Act of 1934.~~

222
223 ~~The system board shall not invest more than 10 percent of the~~
224 ~~equity assets of its funds in the common stock, preferred stock,~~
225 ~~and interest-bearing obligations having an option to convert~~

226 ~~into common stock, of any one issuing corporation; and the~~
227 ~~system board shall not invest more than 3 percent of the equity~~
228 ~~assets of any funds in such securities of any one issuing~~
229 ~~corporation except to the extent a higher percentage of the same~~
230 ~~issue is included in a nationally recognized market index, based~~
231 ~~on market values at least as broad as the Standard and Poor's~~
232 ~~Composite Index of 500 Companies, or except upon a specific~~
233 ~~finding by the system board that such higher percentage is in~~
234 ~~the best interest of the system board. The system board may only~~
235 ~~sell listed options to reduce investment risks, to improve cash~~
236 ~~flow, or to provide alternative means for the purchase and sale~~
237 ~~of underlying investment securities. Reversing transactions may~~
238 ~~be made to close out existing option positions.~~

239 ~~(4) With no more than 80 percent of its funds, in~~
240 ~~interest-bearing obligations with fixed maturity of any~~
241 ~~corporation or commercial entity within the United States.~~

242
243 ~~For the purpose of determining the above investment limitations,~~
244 ~~the value of bonds shall be the par value thereof, and the value~~
245 ~~of evidences of ownership and interest-bearing obligations~~
246 ~~having an option to convert to ownership shall be the cost~~
247 ~~thereof. Investments in any securities authorized by this~~
248 ~~section may be under repurchase agreements or reverse repurchase~~
249 ~~agreements. Investments made by the system board may be~~
250 ~~designated to maximize the financial return to the fund~~

251 ~~consistent with the risks incumbent in each investment and shall~~
252 ~~be designed to preserve an appropriate diversification of the~~
253 ~~portfolio. The system board is authorized to buy and sell~~
254 ~~futures and options, provided the instruments for such purpose~~
255 ~~are traded on a securities exchange or board of trade regulated~~
256 ~~by the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Commodity~~
257 ~~Futures Trading Commission, unless the system board by rule~~
258 ~~authorizes a different market. The system board is authorized to~~
259 ~~invest in domestic or foreign national principal contracts.~~

260 Section 18. Conversion to nonprofit entity.-

261 (1) For purposes of this section, "nonprofit entity" means
262 a Florida not-for-profit corporation operating under chapter
263 617, Florida Statutes.

264 (2) The system board may elect, by a majority vote of the
265 members present and voting, to commence an evaluation of the
266 benefits to the residents of Lee County of converting Lee
267 Memorial Health System to a nonprofit entity if the system board
268 and the Lee County Board of County Commissioners execute an
269 agreement that meets the requirements of subsection (5). In
270 evaluating the benefits of converting Lee Memorial Health System
271 to a nonprofit entity, the system board must:

272 (a) Publish notice of and conduct a public meeting in
273 accordance with section 189.015(1), Florida Statutes, to provide
274 the residents of Lee County with the opportunity to publicly
275 testify regarding the conversion. The public hearing must be

276 held at a meeting other than a regularly noticed meeting or an
277 emergency meeting of the system board.

278 (b) Contract with an independent entity that has at least
279 five years of experience conducting comparable evaluations of
280 hospital organizations similar in size and function to Lee
281 Memorial Health System to conduct the evaluation according to
282 applicable industry best practices. The independent entity may
283 not have any current affiliation with or financial involvement
284 in Lee Memorial Health System or with any current member of the
285 system board.

286 (c) Publish all documents considered by the system board
287 on the Lee Memorial Health System website.

288 (3) The evaluation must be completed and a final report
289 presented to the system board no later than 180 days after the
290 date on which the vote is taken by the system board to evaluate
291 the conversion. The final report shall be published on the Lee
292 Memorial Health System website. The final report must include a
293 statement signed by the chair of the system board and the chief
294 executive officer of the independent entity conducting the
295 evaluation that, based on each person's reasonable knowledge and
296 belief, the contents and conclusions of the evaluation are true
297 and correct.

298 (4) No later than 120 days after the date on which the
299 system board receives the final report, the system board must
300 determine, by a majority vote, whether the interests of Lee

301 County residents are best served by converting to a nonprofit
 302 entity. If the system board determines that conversion is in the
 303 best interests of Lee County residents, Lee Memorial Health
 304 System must negotiate and draft a proposed agreement with the
 305 Lee County Board of County Commissioners before conversion may
 306 occur.

307 (5) An agreement between the system board and Lee County
 308 must be completed no later than 120 days after the date on which
 309 the public meeting is held to determine if conversion is in the
 310 best interests of Lee County residents. The agreement must be in
 311 writing, dispose of all assets and liabilities of Lee Memorial
 312 Health System, and include:

313 (a) A description of each asset that will be transferred
 314 to Lee County.

315 (b) A description of each liability that will be
 316 transferred to Lee County.

317 (c) The estimated total value of the assets that will be
 318 transferred to Lee County.

319 (d) The estimated total value of the liabilities that will
 320 be transferred to Lee County.

321 (e) A description of all assets that will be transferred
 322 to the succeeding nonprofit entity.

323 (f) A description of all liabilities that will be assumed
 324 by the succeeding nonprofit entity.

325 (g) The estimated total value of the assets that will be

326 transferred to the succeeding nonprofit entity.

327 (h) The total value of the liabilities to be assumed by
328 the succeeding nonprofit entity.

329 (i) If any debts remain, how those debts will be resolved.

330 (j) An enforceable commitment that programs and services
331 provided by Lee Memorial Health System will continue to be
332 provided to residents of Lee County in perpetuity so long as the
333 succeeding nonprofit entity is in operation or, if otherwise
334 agreed to, until the succeeding nonprofit entity has otherwise
335 met all obligations set forth in the agreement.

336 (k) A provision transferring the rights and obligations as
337 agreed to by the system board and Lee County to the succeeding
338 nonprofit entity.

339 (l) Any other terms mutually agreed to by Lee Memorial
340 Health System and Lee County.

341 (6) A current member of the Lee County Board of County
342 Commissioners may not serve on the board of the succeeding
343 nonprofit entity.

344 (7) A current or former member of the system board may
345 serve on the board of the succeeding nonprofit entity.

346 (8) The members of the system board and the Lee County
347 Board of County Commissioners must disclose all conflicts of
348 interest as required by section 112.313, Florida Statutes,
349 including, but not limited to:

350 (a) Whether the conversion will result in a special

351 private gain or loss to any member of the system board or the
352 Lee County Board of County Commissioners.

353 (b) If any current member of the system board will serve
354 on the board of the succeeding nonprofit entity. Such intent to
355 serve on the board of the succeeding nonprofit entity does not
356 disqualify any member from voting on the proposed conversion.

357 (9) The evaluation, agreements, disclosures, and any other
358 supporting documents related to the conversion of Lee Memorial
359 Health System must be published on the websites of Lee Memorial
360 Health System and Lee County for 45 days before the system board
361 and the Lee County Board of County Commissioners may vote on the
362 proposed agreement identified in subsection (5) to convert Lee
363 Memorial Health System to a nonprofit entity.

364 (10) (a) In a public meeting noticed as required pursuant
365 to subsection (2), the system board may approve, by a majority
366 vote plus one, the agreement identified under subsection (5),
367 which approval shall constitute approval of the conversion of
368 Lee Memorial Health System to a nonprofit entity subject to the
369 terms of the agreement.

370 (b) The agreement identified under subsection (5) must be
371 approved by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners in a
372 properly noticed public meeting.

373 (c) If the system board and the Lee County Board of County
374 Commissioners approve the agreement, Lee Memorial Health System
375 shall file a copy of the agreement with the Florida Department

376 of Economic Opportunity no later than 10 days after the date of
377 approval by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners.

378 (11) No later than 30 days after the complete transfer of
379 assets and liabilities as provided in the agreement under
380 subsection (5), Lee Memorial Health System shall notify the
381 Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The Lee Memorial
382 Health System independent special district shall be dissolved
383 automatically upon receipt of the notice by the department.

384 (12) If the system board and the Lee County Board of
385 County Commissioners fail to approve for any reason an agreement
386 that would result in the conversion of Lee Memorial Health
387 System to a nonprofit entity, Lee Memorial Health System shall
388 continue to exist as an independent special district.

389 Section 19. The provisions of this act shall be construed
390 liberally in order to carry out its purpose effectively. Any of
391 the enumerated powers herein shall not be construed as a
392 limitation against any remaining powers but shall be construed
393 as cumulative.

394 ~~Section 18. Lee Memorial Health System shall be entitled~~
395 ~~to a lien for all reasonable charges for hospital, physician,~~
396 ~~and other health care services provided by the Lee Memorial~~
397 ~~Health System to ill or injured persons, upon the proceeds of~~
398 ~~all causes of action, suits, claims, counterclaims, and demands~~
399 ~~accruing to said persons or to their legal representatives, and~~
400 ~~upon all judgments, settlements, and settlement agreements~~

401 ~~rendered or entered into by virtue thereof, on account of~~
402 ~~injuries giving rise to such causes of action, suits, claims,~~
403 ~~counterclaims, demands, judgments, settlements, or settlement~~
404 ~~agreements, which injuries shall have necessitated such~~
405 ~~hospital, physician, and other services provided to such ill or~~
406 ~~injured persons. Lee Memorial Health System shall perfect and be~~
407 ~~entitled to enforce such lien as follows:~~

408 ~~(1) In order to perfect the lien provided for herein, the~~
409 ~~Lee Memorial Health System chief executive officer or an~~
410 ~~employee or employees of the Lee Memorial Health System~~
411 ~~authorized by the chief executive officer shall, before or~~
412 ~~within 10 days after such ill or injured person shall have been~~
413 ~~discharged from a Lee Memorial Health System hospital, file in~~
414 ~~the office of the Lee County Clerk of Circuit Court, a verified~~
415 ~~written notice of lien setting forth the name and address of the~~
416 ~~ill or injured person as they may appear in the records of said~~
417 ~~health system hospital, the name and location of said hospital,~~
418 ~~the name and address of the employee or other authorized person~~
419 ~~preparing the notice of lien, the date of admission to said~~
420 ~~hospital and the date of discharge from said hospital, the~~
421 ~~amount claimed to be due for hospital, physician, and other~~
422 ~~services provided, and to the best knowledge of the person~~
423 ~~preparing the notice of lien, the names and addresses of all~~
424 ~~persons, firms, or corporations who may be claimed by such ill~~
425 ~~or injured person or by the legal representative of such person,~~

426 ~~to be liable on account of such illness or injuries. When the~~
427 ~~notice of lien is filed, a copy thereof shall be sent by United~~
428 ~~States Postal Service to the ill or injured person, to said~~
429 ~~person's attorney, if known, and to all persons, firms, or~~
430 ~~corporations named in such notice of lien. The filing and~~
431 ~~mailing of the notice of lien in accordance with this section~~
432 ~~shall be notice thereof to all persons, firms, or corporations~~
433 ~~who may be liable on account of such illness or injuries, and to~~
434 ~~any other persons, firms, or corporations that may have an~~
435 ~~interest in the aforesaid causes of action, suits, claims,~~
436 ~~counterclaims, demands, judgments, settlements, or settlement~~
437 ~~agreements, whether or not they are named in the notice of lien,~~
438 ~~and whether or not a copy of the notice of lien shall have been~~
439 ~~received by them.~~

440 ~~(2) The Lee County Clerk of Circuit Court shall endorse on~~
441 ~~the written notice of lien the date and hour of filing and shall~~
442 ~~record said notice of lien in the Official Records of Lee~~
443 ~~County. The Clerk of Circuit Court shall be entitled to a fee~~
444 ~~from the Lee Memorial Health System for filing and recording the~~
445 ~~notice of lien that shall be the same fee as provided by general~~
446 ~~law for the filing and recording of other instruments.~~

447 ~~(3) No release or satisfaction of any cause of action,~~
448 ~~suit, claim, counterclaim, demand, judgment, settlement, or~~
449 ~~settlement agreement shall be valid or effectual as against the~~
450 ~~lien of Lee Memorial Health System unless the lienholder shall~~

451 ~~join therein or execute a release of its lien prior to the~~
452 ~~payment of any proceeds thereof. Any acceptance of a release or~~
453 ~~satisfaction of any cause of action, suit, claim, counterclaim,~~
454 ~~demand, judgment, settlement, or settlement agreement in the~~
455 ~~absence of a release or satisfaction of the lien of Lee Memorial~~
456 ~~Health System shall prima facie constitute an impairment of such~~
457 ~~lien and the lienholder shall be entitled to a cause of action~~
458 ~~for damages against any and all persons, firms, or corporations~~
459 ~~giving or accepting such release or satisfaction, or paying or~~
460 ~~accepting the proceeds from the same. In such action, Lee~~
461 ~~Memorial Health System may recover the full amount of its~~
462 ~~charges for such hospital, physician, or other health care~~
463 ~~services; regardless of the amount of proceeds paid or received~~
464 ~~in impairment of its lien. Satisfaction of a judgment rendered~~
465 ~~in favor of Lee Memorial Health System in such action shall~~
466 ~~operate as a satisfaction of the lien. The action by the~~
467 ~~lienholder shall be brought in the court in Lee County having~~
468 ~~jurisdiction of the amount of the lienholder's claim. If Lee~~
469 ~~Memorial Health System shall prevail in such action, it shall be~~
470 ~~entitled to recover from the defendant or defendants, in~~
471 ~~addition to costs otherwise allowable by law, all reasonable~~
472 ~~attorney fees and expenses.~~

473 ~~(4) No person shall be entitled to recover or receive~~
474 ~~damages based on the expense of hospital, physician, or other~~
475 ~~health care services provided by Lee Memorial Health System~~

476 ~~unless that person shall affirmatively show that Lee Memorial~~
 477 ~~Health System's charges have been paid. Provided, however, that~~
 478 ~~in any action, suit, or counterclaim brought on account of~~
 479 ~~illness or injury, the plaintiff or counterclaimant may include~~
 480 ~~as an item of damages the expense of such hospital, physician,~~
 481 ~~or other health care services provided by Lee Memorial Health~~
 482 ~~System, if prior to trial he or she shall have notified Lee~~
 483 ~~Memorial Health System in writing of the pendency of such~~
 484 ~~action, suit, or counterclaim; whereupon the lienholder shall~~
 485 ~~have the right, without leave of court, to intervene in the case~~
 486 ~~and prove the amount of its charges for such hospital,~~
 487 ~~physician, or other health care services. Any judgment rendered~~
 488 ~~in favor of the plaintiff or counterclaimant shall provide that~~
 489 ~~the amount proved by the lienholder to be due shall be deducted~~
 490 ~~from the damages awarded and paid to the Lee Memorial Health~~
 491 ~~System.~~

492 ~~(5) The provisions of this section shall not be applicable~~
 493 ~~to accidents or injuries within the purview of the workers'~~
 494 ~~compensation laws of Florida.~~

495 Section 2. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause,
 496 phrase, or other part of this act is declared unconstitutional,
 497 or if this act is declared inapplicable in any case, such
 498 declaration does not affect the remainder of the act or the
 499 applicability of the act in any other case.

500 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.