

1 HB431  
2 156021-1  
3 By Representatives Rogers, Robinson (O), Scott and Moore (M)  
4 (N & P)  
5 RFD: Jefferson County Legislation  
6 First Read: 06-FEB-14

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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 Alabama Department of Public Health; to  
17 require the department to use the funds for the delivery of  
18 health care services to indigent persons of the county.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

22 "Section 14. (a) There is hereby established for the  
23 county the County Indigent Care Fund herein called "the  
24 Indigent Care Fund." ~~The~~ All funds in the Indigent Care Fund  
25 shall be ~~used by the county for any or all of the following~~  
26 purposes transferred to and administered by the Alabama  
27 Department of Public Health or a health care authority created

1 for the delivery of health care services to indigent persons  
2 of the county health care authority.

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

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

25 "(d) The ~~county~~ designated indigent care hospital  
26 shall be authorized to collect for the benefit of the  
27 "Indigent Care Fund" such sums as the ~~county~~ hospital or the

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

25 "(e) The county each year shall earmark and set  
26 aside in a separate fund not less than twenty-five percent  
27 (25%) of the county indigent care fund to be used for capital

1 improvements. This requirement shall cease and no longer be  
2 binding upon the county after a county hospital has been  
3 constructed and fully equipped. Because funds are earmarked  
4 for capital improvement, one percent of the funds shall be  
5 distributed to the Alabama Department of Public Health or a  
6 health care authority created to provide medical care for  
7 indigent residents of this county for administering the  
8 Indigent Care Fund on the tenth day of each month.

9 "(f) Any hospital created pursuant to this act shall  
10 be known as the Cooper Green Mercy Hospital."

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