

1 HB655
2 139960-1
3 By Representative Williams (J) (N & P)
4 RFD: Jefferson County Legislation
5 First Read: 05-APR-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, 1965 Regular Session (Acts 1965, p. 522), to provide
15 additional uses for the Jefferson County Indigent Care Fund;
16 to provide for the severability of the act; and to provide for
17 an effective date.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

22 "Section 14. There is hereby established for the
23 county the County Indigent Care Fund herein called the
24 "Indigent Care Fund." The Indigent Care Fund shall be used by
25 the county for any or all of the following purposes: to
26 acquire by construction, eminent domain or otherwise, a county
27 hospital, hospitals and/or clinics, to operate, equip and

1 maintain the same for the medical care and treatment of
2 indigent persons of the county suffering from illness, injury,
3 disability or infirmity, including out-patients; and the
4 furnishings of drugs and medicine to such indigent persons,
5 including out-patient care at the county hospital or at a
6 clinic maintained by the county or under contract with the
7 county, also the operation of an emergency clinic. In
8 addition, the county shall be authorized to furnish part of
9 the cost of the medical care for those of the county able to
10 pay for only part of their own medical care, and provided
11 further, the county may appropriate funds from the Indigent
12 Care Fund to provide funding for: (1) low-income assistance
13 programs for county residents, including, but not limited to,
14 programs hereafter established for the benefit of low-income
15 county residents designed to assist those persons whose lack
16 of financial resources renders it difficult to meet their
17 obligations in respect of the imposition on them of rates and
18 charges for sewer service that exceed those presently being
19 paid by them for sewer service in the county; (2) public
20 transportation in the county; and (3) housing for indigents.

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

1 "The county shall be authorized to collect for the
2 benefit of the "Indigent Care Fund" such sums as the county is
3 able to collect from "part-pay" patients and from any other
4 source or fund, public or private. However, in construing the
5 act and in defining the intent of treatment for indigent sick,
6 the governing authorities dispensing said fund for care shall
7 cause any expectant mother to register for prenatal care and
8 if the recipient ~~claim~~ claims to need indigent care, enter
9 upon the record the name of the father of the child. The
10 hospital shall furnish immediately a copy to the Circuit
11 Solicitor. The Circuit Solicitor shall take steps to collect
12 from the father and shall report the efforts made prior to
13 dismissal and shall report further efforts at least annually
14 to both the Hospital and the governing authority of the
15 county, said efforts to collect and reports shall not extend
16 beyond three years. In the event 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 shall make such rules and
20 regulations with respect to determining indigency of the
21 mother and what may be collected from her as they deem
22 reasonable under the circumstances. The above is supplemental
23 to any existing regulations for collection now in force.

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

1 county after a county hospital has been constructed and fully
2 equipped."

3 Section 2. All laws or parts of laws which conflict
4 with this act are repealed.

5 Section 3. If any provision of this act shall be
6 finally determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be
7 invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provisions
8 of this act, which shall be given full force and effect as
9 completely as if the invalid provision had not been included
10 herein.

11 Section 4. 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.