
Appropriations Committee

HB 2126

Brief Description: Limiting rates paid for medical care provided to jail inmates.

Sponsors: Representatives Ross, Morrell, Curtis, Simpson and Eddy.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limits the cost of medical care provided by health care providers to persons confined in local county and city jails to 160 percent of Medicaid rates for such services, if the confined person is unable to be financially responsible for medical care and is ineligible for the Department of Social and Health Services' medical care programs.

Hearing Date: 3/1/07

Staff: Bernard Dean (786-7130).

Background:

The Department of Social and Health Services (Department) is required to reimburse the provider of emergency or necessary health care to jail inmates if the inmate is eligible for the Department's medical care programs. The financial responsibility for any unpaid balance is divided equally between medical care providers and local governments unless the provider and local government have reached a different agreement for sharing the unpaid balance.

Inmates confined in state and local correctional facilities are categorically ineligible for Medicaid. For those medical care services not provided through the Department, local governments or medical care providers may obtain reimbursement for care services from jail inmates, including reimbursement from any insurance program or from other medical benefit programs available to the confined person.

To the extent that a confined jail inmate is unable to be financially responsible for medical care and is ineligible for the Department's medical care programs, or for coverage from private sources, local governments may obtain reimbursement for the cost of such medical services from the unit of government whose law enforcement officers initiated the charges on which the person

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is being held. Such reimbursements by the state are limited to state prisoners who are being held in jail for escaping from a state facility or for committing an offense in a state facility.

Summary of Bill:

If a person confined in a city or county jail is unable to be financially responsible for medical care and is ineligible for the Department of Social and Health Services medical care programs, the cost of any medical care provided by a health care provider will not exceed 160 percent of Medicaid rates for such services.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 26, 2007.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.