



H.B. 794

123rd General Assembly

(As Introduced)

(excluding appropriations and fund transfers)

**Reps. Salerno, Trakas, Kilbane, Goodman, Williams, Van Vyven, Schuler,
Clancy, Jacobson, DePiero**

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes a program to compensate hospitals for providing uncompensated care to patients who have incomes above the federal poverty guidelines but who do not have health insurance.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill establishes a program to compensate hospitals that provide uncompensated care to patients who have incomes above the federal poverty guidelines but who do not have health insurance. (Through the Hospital Care Assurance Program and the Medicaid Program, the state already compensates hospitals that provide uncompensated care to uninsured patients with incomes below the federal poverty guidelines.)

Amounts appropriated by the General Assembly for the new program are to be transferred by the Director of Budget and Management from the General Revenue Fund to the Uncompensated Care Fund, which the bill creates in the state treasury. Not later than September 1 each year, the Department of Job and Family Services is to distribute the money to the counties, and not later than November 1 each year the counties are to distribute the money to the hospitals. The amount distributed to each hospital is to be proportional to the amount of uncompensated care provided by hospitals in the county to the target group of uninsured patients with incomes above the federal poverty guidelines. Similarly, the amount distributed to each county is to be proportional to the amount of uncompensated care provided by hospitals in all 88 counties; however, the bill considers the value of uncompensated care provided to the target group in any county with a property tax that generated at least \$2.5 million to support hospital services for the indigent during the year to be twice the value of the uncompensated care. Each year's distributions to the hospitals and the counties are to be based on the most recent year's Medicaid cost reports that the hospitals have by then submitted to the

Department of Job and Family Services under the Hospital Care Assurance Program.

No hospital is to receive a distribution larger than the amount of uncompensated care that it provided to the target group. In addition, a county must return to the Department of Job and Family Services, for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, any money not distributed during the year under the terms of the bill.

COMMENT

The federal poverty guidelines for the year 2000 are:

Size of Family Unit	Income
1	\$ 8,350
2	11,250
3	14,150
4	17,050
5	19,950
6	22,850
7	25,750
8	28,650
For each additional person, add	2,900

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	10-30-00	p. 2302

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