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HOUSE BILL 8

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

William "Bill" R. Rehm

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE; AMENDING THE INDIGENT HOSPITAL AND COUNTY HEALTH CARE ACT; REQUIRING COUNTIES TO REIMBURSE THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HOSPITALS FOR UNCOMPENSATED INDIGENT CARE PROVIDED TO RESIDENTS OF THOSE COUNTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Act is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] COUNTY REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS.--Each county shall reimburse the university of New Mexico hospitals for costs not otherwise compensated that are incurred by the university of New Mexico hospitals for ambulance service, hospital care or the provision of health care provided by the university of New Mexico hospitals to indigent patients domiciled in that county for at least three months."

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1 Section 2. Section 27-5-7.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993,
2 Chapter 321, Section 16, as amended) is amended to read:

3 "27-5-7.1. COUNTY INDIGENT HOSPITAL CLAIMS FUND--
4 AUTHORIZED USES OF THE FUND.--

5 A. The fund shall be used to reimburse the
6 university of New Mexico hospitals for costs not otherwise
7 compensated that are incurred by the university of New Mexico
8 hospitals for ambulance service, hospital care or the provision
9 of health care provided by the university of New Mexico
10 hospitals to indigent patients domiciled in that county for at
11 least three months.

12 [~~A.~~] B. The balance of the fund remaining after all
13 payments are made pursuant to Subsection A of this section
14 shall be used:

15 (1) to meet the county's contribution for
16 support of sole community provider payments as calculated by
17 the department for that county;

18 (2) to pay for expenses of burial or cremation
19 of an indigent person; and

20 (3) to pay all claims that have been approved
21 by the board that are not matched with federal funds under the
22 state medicaid program.

23 [~~B.~~] C. The balance of the fund remaining after all
24 payments are made pursuant to Subsection A of this section may
25 be used to meet the county's obligation under Section 27-10-4

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1 NMSA 1978."

2 Section 3. Section 27-5-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965,
3 Chapter 234, Section 14, as amended) is amended to read:

4 "27-5-13. CLAIM SHALL NOT EXPIRE BECAUSE OF LACK OF
5 FUNDS--PRIORITY OF CLAIMS.--A claim made to the board for
6 payment for the care of an indigent patient shall not expire or
7 become invalid because of the lack of money in the fund during
8 any fiscal year but shall be carried over into the ensuing
9 fiscal year and, notwithstanding the provisions of any other
10 law, shall be paid in the ensuing year. Whenever the balance
11 of the fund is inadequate to pay all qualified claims as they
12 become due, the claims of university of New Mexico hospitals
13 shall have first priority of payment, and in-state hospitals
14 providing acute medical care shall have second priority for
15 payment over all other claims regardless of the dates the other
16 claims were submitted. The board shall, however, on a regular
17 basis, estimate future demands upon the fund, based on past
18 experience, and set aside sufficient funds to [~~assure~~] ensure
19 payment for in-state hospitals providing acute medical care and
20 shall then address, on a regular basis, the claims from other
21 hospitals or ambulance services."

22 Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
23 provisions of this act is January 1, 2009.

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