

By: Representatives M. Gray, D. Ferguson

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO AUTHORIZE THE INTRODUCTION OF A NONAPPROPRIATION
BILL CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT FEE ON HOSPITALS.

Subtitle

TO AUTHORIZE THE INTRODUCTION OF A
NONAPPROPRIATION BILL CONCERNING THE
ASSESSMENT FEE ON HOSPITALS.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT Senator Ingram is authorized to introduce a bill which, as introduced,
will read substantially as follows:

"For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ASSESSMENT FEE ON HOSPITALS TO INCLUDE CERTAIN HOSPITALS;
TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ASSESSMENT FEE ON HOSPITALS TO INCLUDE CERTAIN HOSPITALS; AND TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-77-1905(a), concerning the exemptions
under the assessment fee on hospitals, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The following hospitals shall be exempt from the assessment



imposed under § 20-77-1902 unless the exemption is adjudged to be unconstitutional or otherwise determined to be invalid:

(1)(A) Hospitals that are not privately operated hospitals.

(B) Subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section does not include border city university affiliated pediatric teaching hospitals;

(2) Hospitals licensed by the Department of Health as rehabilitation hospitals; and

(3) Specialty hospitals.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-77-1907(e), concerning the notice of assessment relating to the assessment fee on hospitals, is amended to read as follows:

(e) A hospital subject to an assessment under this subchapter that has not been previously licensed as a hospital in Arkansas and that commences hospital operations during a state fiscal year, or a hospital that otherwise becomes subject to the assessment, shall pay the required assessment computed under § 20-77-1902 and shall be eligible for hospital access payments under § 20-77-1908 on the date specified in rules promulgated by the division under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the safety and health of the children of Arkansas need additional protections; that changes in the law will allow the state to impose a hospital assessment on additional hospitals that provide pediatric care for children; that without the assessment, a pediatric hospital will no longer be available to meet the needs of children in the state; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure substantial funding in the upcoming fiscal year and to ensure continuing health care for all children of Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is

overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto."