

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; AMENDING THE INDIGENT HOSPITAL AND COUNTY HEALTH CARE ACT TO DELAY THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF TRANSFERS OF CERTAIN BALANCES TO COUNTY-SUPPORTED MEDICAID FUNDS FROM COUNTY INDIGENT HOSPITAL CLAIMS FUNDS.

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

Section 1. Section 27-5-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 234, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

"27-5-7. COUNTY INDIGENT HOSPITAL CLAIMS FUND. --

A. There is created in the county treasury of each county a "county indigent hospital claims fund".

B. Collections under the levy made pursuant to the Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Act and all payments shall be placed into the fund, and the amount placed in the fund shall be budgeted and expended only for the purposes specified in the Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Act, by warrant upon vouchers approved by a majority of the board and signed by the chairman of the board. Payments for indigent hospitalizations shall not be made from any other county fund.

C. The fund shall be audited in the manner that other state and county funds are audited, and all records of payments and verified statements of qualification upon which payments were made from the fund shall be open to the

public.

D. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year pursuant to Subsection F of this section shall carry over into the ensuing year, and that balance shall be taken into consideration in the determination of the ensuing year's budget and certification of need for purposes of making a tax levy.

E. Money may be transferred to the fund from other sources, but no transfers may be made from the fund for any purpose other than those specified in the Indigent Hospital and County Health Care Act.

F. On June 30 of each fiscal year, beginning in 2000, the board shall transfer to the county-supported medicaid fund that amount of the balance in the county indigent hospital claims fund that exceeds two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) or that exceeds the amount equal to thirty percent of the income to the fund during that fiscal year, whichever is greater. Any amount transferred to the county-supported medicaid fund pursuant to this subsection is in addition to the county's obligation pursuant to Section 27-10-4 NMSA 1978. "
