

SENATE BILL NO. 302—COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

MARCH 8, 2001

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Facilities

SUMMARY—Revises certain provisions governing payment of hospital for serving disproportionately large share of low-income patients. (BDR 40-962)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to the provision of health care; revising the method for determining whether a hospital qualifies for certain payments for serving a disproportionately large share of low-income patients; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** NRS 439B.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 439B.330 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 439B.300 and
3 subsection 2 of this section, each county shall use the definition of
4 “indigent” in NRS 439B.310 to determine a person’s eligibility for medical
5 assistance pursuant to chapter 428 of NRS, other than assistance provided
6 pursuant to NRS 428.115 to 428.255, inclusive.
7 2. A board of county commissioners may, if it determines that a
8 hospital within the county ~~is serving a disproportionately large share of~~
9 ~~low income patients;~~ *has been designated by the Federal Government as*
10 *a disproportionate share hospital for purposes of Medicare;*
11 (a) Pay a higher rate to the hospital for *the* treatment of indigent
12 inpatients;
13 (b) Pay the hospital for *the* treatment of indigent inpatients whom the
14 hospital would otherwise be required to treat without receiving
15 compensation from the county; or
16 (c) Both pay at a higher rate and pay for inpatients for whom the
17 hospital would otherwise be uncompensated.
18 3. Each hospital which treats an indigent inpatient shall submit to the
19 board of county commissioners of the county of residence of the patient a
20 discharge form identifying the patient as a possible indigent and containing



1 the information required by the department and the county to be included
2 in all such forms.
3 4. The county which receives a discharge form from a hospital for an
4 indigent inpatient shall verify the status of the patient and the amount
5 which the hospital is entitled to receive. A hospital aggrieved by a
6 determination of a county regarding the indigent status of an inpatient may
7 appeal the determination to the director or a person designated by the
8 director to hear such an appeal. The decision of the director or the person
9 he designates must be mailed by registered or certified mail to the county
10 and the hospital. The decision of the director or the person he designates
11 may be appealed to a court having general jurisdiction in the county within
12 15 days after the date of the postmark on the envelope in which the
13 decision was mailed.
14 5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 of this section and
15 subsection 3 of NRS 439B.320, if the county is the county of residence of
16 the patient and the patient is indigent, the county shall pay to the hospital
17 the amount required, within the limits of money which may lawfully be
18 appropriated for this purpose pursuant to NRS 428.050, 428.285 and
19 450.425.
20 6. For the purposes of this section, the county of residence of the
21 patient is the county of residence of that person before he was admitted to
22 the hospital.
23 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2001.

