

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to SB 134:

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

1 To amend Article 15 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to hospital acquisition, so as to change certain provisions relating to content and  
3 form of notice to the Attorney General, fees, and retention of experts; to provide an effective  
4 date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 15 of Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 hospital acquisition, is amended by revising subsections (c) and (d) of Code Section  
9 31-7-402, relating to content and form of notice to the Attorney General, fees, and retention  
10 of experts, as follows:

11 "(c) ~~Notice to the Attorney General shall be accompanied by the payment by either the seller or lessor, or by the acquiring entity, of a fee in the amount of \$50,000.00.~~"  
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13 "(d) ~~The Attorney General shall be authorized to retain financial, economic, health planning, or other experts or consultants to assist in addressing each of the criteria set forth in Code Section 31-7-406. The Attorney General shall be authorized to retain financial, economic, health planning, or other experts or consultants to assist in addressing each of the criteria set forth in Code Section 31-7-406. Within 30 days after notice from the Attorney General, the cost and expense incurred in connection with the retention of such experts or consultants shall be paid directly to each of such experts and consultants by the parties to the proposed transaction in such proportionate amounts as the parties to the proposed transaction may agree or otherwise as determined by the Attorney General; provided, however, that the parties to the proposed transaction shall not be required to pay any portion of such cost and expense that exceeds a total amount of \$60,000.00.~~"  
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**SECTION 2.**

- 2 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
3 without such approval.

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**SECTION 3.**

- 5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.