

SENATE SUBSTITUTE TO HB 464

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
 2 relating to conditions of detention generally, so as to modify provisions relating to deductions
 3 from an inmate account to provide for the payment of certain medication costs; to provide
 4 for definitions; to provide for exceptions for payment of medication costs; to provide for
 5 related matters; to amend Code Section 42-5-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
 6 relating to responsibilities of a governmental unit with custody of an inmate generally, costs
 7 of emergency and follow-up care, and access to medical services or hospital care for inmates,
 8 so as to provide for requirements for hospitals that provide emergency health care services
 9 to state inmates; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
 10 purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

12 Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
 13 conditions of detention generally, is amended by revising Code Section 42-5-55, relating to
 14 deductions from an inmate account for the payment of certain damages and medical costs,
 15 limits on deductions, and fee for managing inmate accounts, as follows:

17 "42-5-55.

18 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

19 (1) 'Chronic illness' means an illness requiring care and treatment over an extended
 20 period of time. Chronic illness includes, but is not limited to, hypertension, diabetes,
 21 pulmonary illness, a seizure disorder, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, cancer,
 22 tuberculosis B, hepatitis C, rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune disorder, and renal
 23 disease.

24 (2) 'Detention facility' means a state, county, or private correctional institution,
 25 workcamp, or other state or county detention facility used for the detention of persons
 26 convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor.

27 ~~(2)~~(3) 'Inmate' means a person who is detained in a detention facility by reason of being
 28 convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor.

29 ~~(3)~~(4) 'Medical treatment' means each visit initiated by the inmate to an institutional
 30 physician; physician's extender, including a physician's assistant or a nurse practitioner;
 31 registered nurse; licensed practical nurse; medical assistant; dentist; dental hygienist;
 32 optometrist; or psychiatrist for examination or treatment.

33 ~~(4)~~(5) 'Officer in charge' means the warden, captain, or superintendent having the
 34 supervision of any detention facility.

35 (b) The commissioner or, in the case of a county or private facility, the officer in charge
 36 may establish by rules or regulations criteria for a reasonable deduction from money
 37 credited to the account of an inmate to:

38 (1) Repay the costs of:

39 (A) Public property or private property in the case of an inmate housed in a private
 40 correctional facility willfully damaged or destroyed by the inmate during his or her
 41 incarceration;

42 (B) Medical treatment and prescription medication for injuries inflicted by the inmate
 43 upon himself or herself or others unless the inmate has a severe mental health
 44 designation as determined by the department;

45 (C) Searching for and apprehending the inmate when he or she escapes or attempts to
 46 escape; such costs to be limited to those extraordinary costs incurred as a consequence
 47 of the escape; or

48 (D) Quelling any riot or other disturbance in which the inmate is unlawfully involved;
 49 or

50 (2) Defray the costs paid by the state or county for:

51 (A) Medical ~~medical~~ treatment for an inmate when the request for medical treatment
 52 has been initiated by the inmate; and

53 (B) Medication prescribed for the treatment of a medical condition unrelated to
 54 pregnancy or a chronic illness.

55 (c) The provisions of paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall in no way
 56 relieve the governmental unit, agency, or subdivision having physical custody of an inmate
 57 from furnishing him or her with needed medical treatment.

58 (d) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Code section, the deductions from money
 59 credited to the account of an inmate as authorized under subsection (b) of this Code section
 60 shall not be made whenever the balance in the inmate's account is \$10.00 or less.

61 (e) The officer in charge of any detention facility is authorized to charge a fee for
 62 establishing and managing inmate money accounts. Such fee shall not exceed \$1.00 per
 63 month."

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SECTION 1A.

Code Section 42-5-2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to responsibilities of a governmental unit with custody of an inmate generally, costs of emergency and follow-up care, and access to medical services or hospital care for inmates, is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

"(c) A hospital authority or hospital which is not a party to a contract with the Georgia Department of Corrections or its agents on July 1, 2009, shall be reimbursed no more than the applicable Georgia Medicaid rate for emergency services provided to such state inmate. For purposes of this subsection, the term 'state inmate' means any inmate for whom the Georgia Department of Corrections shall be responsible for the payment of medical care thereof. Nothing in this Code section shall prohibit the Georgia Department of Corrections from negotiating higher fees or rates with health care providers. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Georgia Department of Corrections or its agents enter into negotiations with health care providers to contract for the provision of services as provided in this Code section."

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SECTION 2.

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

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SECTION 3.

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