



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0723 **Date:** February 8, 2023
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Pelton R.; Exum **Bill Status:** Senate Local Government
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Bill Topic: **OPERATIONS OF COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITALS**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill clarifies the responsibilities of county commissioners and public hospital trustees. The bill may minimally impact local government workload on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, a board of county commissioners may establish a public hospital board of trustees, levy an annual tax, and maintain a public hospital in the county. This bill clarifies that any debt incurred by the hospital is an obligation of the county hospital, not the county commissioners.

Additionally, this bill:

- allows the title for real property held by a hospital to be in the name of either the county or the hospital;
- requires approval of the hospital's debt by county commissioners only when the repayment is dependent on tax money received from the county for hospital purposes;
- expands the authority of county commissioners to use their general fund for hospital improvements and operations; and,
- clarifies that county hospitals may offer the same products and services as any other healthcare organization if those services are consistent with the powers and duties of a county hospital.

Local Government

The bill is not anticipated to materially impact the operations of county hospitals or boards of county commissioners. The bill provides flexibility for counties to support hospitals with general fund appropriations, and removes the requirement that boards approve all debt issued by a hospital. These changes may minimally reduce workload for local offices, such as transferring certain financial responsibilities from the board of county commissioners to county hospitals.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties	Higher Education	Information Technology
Local Affairs	Public Health and Environment	