

State of Arkansas
76th General Assembly
Regular Session, 1987
By: Senator Dowd

SENATE BILL 230

"AN ACT TO IMPOSE A CHARGE OF TWO DOLLARS FOR EACH CLIENT VISIT TO THE VARIOUS LOCAL HEALTH UNITS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE FUNDS DERIVED FROM SUCH FEES SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE STATE TREASURY AND USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SUPPORT OF THE BUREAU OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES; TO REPEAL THE LAW REQUIRING THE DIVISION OF TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH TO EXAMINE SCHOOL PERSONNEL FREE OF CHARGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. There is hereby imposed a fee of two dollars (\$2.00) for each client visit to a local health unit. The State Board of Health may assess any client a single charge of ten dollars (\$10.00) to cover all visits by the client for a period of one year, which charge shall be in lieu of the charge of two dollars (\$2.00) per visit provided above. Fees levied by the Board pursuant to the authority granted in this Act shall be collected by the respective local health units from each client who is financially able to pay such fee.

SECTION 2. Funds derived from the fees levied pursuant to the authority granted in this Act shall be collected by the various local health units and shall be deposited in a local bank account and remitted monthly to the State Department of Health. The State Department of Health shall deposit all such funds received from local health units in the State Treasury where the same shall be credited to the Public Health Fund to be used exclusively for support of the Bureau of Community Health Services of the State Department of Health. Subject to such rules and regulations as may be implemented by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the disbursing officers for the Department of

Health is hereby authorized to transfer all unexpended funds relative to the Bureau of Community Health Services that pertain to fees collected, as certified by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, to be carried forward and made available for expenditure for the same purposes for any following fiscal year.

SECTION 3. If revenue from these fees is inadequate to enable local health units to continue provision of essential services, the State Board of Health, with the review and comment of the Legislative Council, is authorized to adopt appropriate rules and regulations to increase the client visit fee imposed in Section 1 hereof to an amount not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00) per client visit or a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) single annual charge and to prescribe guidelines for the assessment, collection, and remittance of such fees.

SECTION 4. Subsections (2) and (3) of Section 194 of Act 169 of 1931, as added by subsections (2) and (3) of Section 1 of Act 455 of 1965, the same being Arkansas Statutes 80-1211 and 80-1212 and all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that the services provided by the local health units of the State Department of Health are services that are essential to the health and welfare of residents of the various areas of the State; that as a result of recent state budget cuts, funding for the local health units has been reduced significantly and that unless additional funds are provided for support of the local health units, the services provided by the units will be seriously curtailed to the detriment of the health of residents in the various areas of the State; that this Act is designed to permit the State Board of Health to levy nominal charges for client visits to the local health units with such fees to be collected only from those clients who are financially able to pay the fee, with funds derived from such fees to be used exclusively for the support of the Bureau of Community Health Services, to enable them to continue to provide essential health services; that this Act should be given effect at the earliest possible date to enable the State Board of Health to levy and begin collection of the fees authorized herein and to thereby avoid curtailment of

services provided by the various local health units. Therefore, an emergency of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

