

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-212

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor

Date of Introduction: March 12, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R, F

Date of Analysis: March 14, 2024

Type of Action: Ordinance Code amendment; authorization of hospital special assessment; authorization to execute letter of agreement and disbursement of funds; provision for collection of assessments

Bill Summary: The bill amends the Ordinance Code to create a new Chapter 492 – Low-Income Pool Assessment – which authorizes an annual special assessment on participating hospitals to produce revenue to be used to leverage additional state funding for uncompensated care through the Low-Income Pool Program. It states that creation and implementation of the assessment shall not result in any additional pecuniary obligation on the City of Jacksonville and provides for codification of the new chapter.

Background Information: The federal government and the states have created a mechanism by which hospitals may leverage expanded Medicaid funding by financing the non-federal share of the Medicaid program. The mechanism provides that hospitals may be charged a special assessment which will be placed into a fund that is transmitted to the state to pay the county/city's portion of the non-federal share of the Medicaid shortfall. The proposed assessment is based on a portion of their gross patient revenue. Historically, for every \$1 funded by the state, the federal government contributes \$1.82. The 11 participating hospitals in Jacksonville are agreeable to paying the special assessment to leverage the additional Medicaid funding as they have done for several years. This bill codifies the annual process by placing it in the Ordinance Code so that separate legislation is not needed every year to accomplish this purpose.

Policy Impact Area: Medicaid health care cost coverage

Fiscal Impact: The legislation creates a Low Income Pool special assessment on Agency for Health Care Administration hospitals only, to fund the local portion of the program which will draw down additional federal dollars to pay for care provided to the uninsured.

Analyst: Clements