



House Office Building, 9 South  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: 517/373-6466

## LIMIT COUNTY RESPONSIBILITY FOR INMATE MEDICAL EXPENSES

House Bill 4214

Sponsor: Rep. Bruce Caswell

Committee: Criminal Justice

Complete to 4-10-03

### A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4214 AS INTRODUCED 2-13-03

The bill would amend 171 of the Revised Statutes of 1846 to limit the responsibility of counties for the medical treatment of prisoners in their care to no more than \$250 for emergency medical care. Currently, the act requires a county to pay, from the county treasury, all charges and expenses of safekeeping and maintaining prisoners and persons charged with an offense. The bill, however, would specify that a county would not be liable for payment of any amount for any other medical care or treatment administered to a prisoner or person charged with an offense. If a prisoner or alleged offender received medical care as an emergency patient, the county would only be liable for a maximum amount of \$250 for that care.

“Emergency patient” would be defined as an individual having a physical or mental condition that manifested with acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including, but not limited to, pain such that a prudent layperson, possessing average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect to result in one or all of the following:

- Placing the health of the individual or, in the case of a pregnant woman, the health of the patient or the unborn child, or both, in serious jeopardy.
- Serious impairment of bodily function.
- Serious dysfunction of a body organ or part.

MCL 801.4

Analyst: S. Stutzky

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.