

RESOLUTION NO. 92 - 173

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
PERTAINING TO MEDICAID

1. Whereas, State law requires that counties participate in the funding of certain Medicaid programs; and
2. Whereas, Counties are required to pay thirty-five percent of the medicaid cost for the thirteenth through the forty-fifth day for hospital services provided to county residents with income below poverty level; and
3. Whereas, counties are required to pay a capped amount up to \$55 per month for county residents who reside in nursing homes; and
4. Whereas, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services advised that some counties do not comply with state requirements to participate in Medicaid funding; and
5. Whereas, the State Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services proposed expansions to Medicaid eligibility to meet Federal requirements for expansion and to reduce the surpluses available in the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund in 1986; and
6. Whereas, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services was advised by the counties at that time that counties were unable to provide funding for these medicaid expansions; and
7. Whereas, the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund surplus has been exhausted and additional funds must be located to meet medicaid funding requirements; and
8. Whereas, the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services now looks to the counties to provide additional funds for the Medicaid programs; and
9. Whereas, the Florida Legislature created the Task Force on County Contributions to Medicaid in 1991 to study the current method for county medicaid billing as required by s. 409.915 and make recommendations regarding the adequacy of current procedures; and
10. Whereas, the Task Force report identified problems in the billing system; and
11. Whereas, the report recommended that the state and counties work together to maximize the exchange of information to ensure

that counties pay only for their own residents while ensuring that appropriate state revenues are collected; and

12. Whereas, St. Johns County recognizes that required local expenditures for hospital services currently are based on actual use by county residents and do not necessarily increase each year; and

13. Whereas, the option offered by the state would be based on the percent of increase of the number of eligible recipients in the county with a cap of fifteen percent thereby assuring an annual increase in county expenditures.

14. Whereas, the option states that a base year (1990/91) figure would be used to compute the amount to be paid by a county with no more than a fifteen percent annual increase; and,

15. Whereas, the use of fifteen percent annual increase will more than double expenditures in St. Johns County within five years; and

16. Whereas, if legislation is passed using a "base year" for expenditures paid two years ago, the counties will be paying a larger share than the state share in a few years, and

17. Whereas, the itemized monthly medicaid billing is the only means that counties have of verifying the appropriate charges, and

18. Whereas, relinquishing this monthly billing process totally eliminates the County's means of a checks and balances system.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, that the Board does hereby;

1. Request that the Legislature oppose the passage of any legislation which will require that counties increase payments to the State Medicaid Program.

2. Request that the State Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services implement the recommendations made in the report of the Task Force which suggests methods to reduce billing errors and improve state collections.

3. Request that the Department of Health and Rehabilitataive Services continue to send the counties itemized monthly billings.

4. Request that penalties authorized in current legislation be enforced as an incentive to counties that may be slow to pay or that do not comply with statute requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners directs the St. Johns County Clerk of Court to provide the Governor and each member of the local Legislative delegation with a copy of this resolution.

Passed and adopted by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners this 13th day of October, 1992.

Attest *Paul D. Marshall*
Its Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

by *F. L. Brinkhoff*
Its Chairman - Fred Brinkhoff

