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ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 433—ASSEMBLYMEN PIERCE, HORNE,  
BUCKLEY; ARBERRY, ATKINSON, HOGAN, KIHUEN,  
KIRKPATRICK, LESLIE, MCCLAIN, MORTENSON, MUNFORD,  
OCEGUERA, OHRENSCHALL AND SEGERBLOM

MARCH 16, 2009

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JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR PARKS

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Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Requires county hospitals to provide cancer  
treatment as part of their care to indigent persons.  
(BDR 40-976)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.  
Effect on the State: No.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 1)  
(NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

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AN ACT relating to county hospitals; requiring a county hospital to  
provide cancer treatment as part of its care to indigent  
persons; and providing other matters properly relating  
thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

1 Counties are required through county hospitals to provide care to indigent  
2 persons. (NRS 428.010, 450.420) This bill requires that the care include the  
3 treatment of cancer if the indigent person is a resident of Nevada and was a resident  
4 at the time the person was diagnosed with cancer, but clarifies that this does not  
5 prohibit the hospital from providing uncompensated care for the treatment of cancer  
6 to other persons.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1       **Section 1.** NRS 450.420 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
2       450.420 1. The board of county commissioners of the county  
3 in which a ~~public~~ *county* hospital is located may determine  
4 whether patients presented to the ~~public~~ *county* hospital for  
5 treatment are subjects of charity. Except as otherwise provided in  
6 NRS 439B.330, the board of county commissioners shall establish  
7 by ordinance criteria and procedures to be used in the determination  
8 of eligibility for medical care as medical indigents or subjects of  
9 charity.

10       2. *A county hospital must provide cancer treatment to*  
11 *indigent persons who are residents of this State and were residents*  
12 *of this State at the time that they were diagnosed with cancer. This*  
13 *subsection does not prohibit a county hospital from providing*  
14 *uncompensated care for the treatment of cancer to other persons.*

15       3. The board of hospital trustees shall fix the charges for  
16 treatment of those persons able to pay for the charges, as the board  
17 deems just and proper. The board of hospital trustees may impose an  
18 interest charge of not more than 12 percent per annum on unpaid  
19 accounts. The receipts must be paid to the county treasurer and  
20 credited by him to the hospital fund. In fixing charges pursuant to  
21 this subsection the board of hospital trustees shall not include, or  
22 seek to recover from paying patients, any portion of the expense of  
23 the hospital which is properly attributable to the care of indigent  
24 patients.

25       ~~3.~~ 4. Except as provided in subsection ~~4~~ 5 of this section  
26 and subsection 3 of NRS 439B.320, the county is chargeable with  
27 the entire cost of services rendered by the hospital and any salaried  
28 staff physician or employee to any person admitted for emergency  
29 treatment, including all reasonably necessary recovery, convalescent  
30 and follow-up inpatient care required for any such person as  
31 determined by the board of trustees of the hospital, but the hospital  
32 shall use reasonable diligence to collect the charges from the  
33 emergency patient or any other person responsible for his support.  
34 Any amount collected must be reimbursed or credited to the county.

35       ~~4.~~ 5. The county is not chargeable with the cost of services  
36 rendered by the hospital or any attending staff physician or surgeon  
37 to the extent the hospital is reimbursed for those services pursuant to  
38 NRS 428.115 to 428.255, inclusive.

39       **Sec. 2.** NRS 450.425 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40       450.425 1. The board of county commissioners of a county in  
41 which a county hospital is established may, upon approval by a  
42 majority of the voters voting on the question in an election held



1 throughout the county, levy an ad valorem tax of not more than 2.5  
2 cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation upon all taxable property  
3 in the county, to pay the cost of services rendered in the county by  
4 the hospital pursuant to subsection ~~3~~ 4 of NRS 450.420. The  
5 approval required by this subsection may be requested at any  
6 primary or general election.

7 2. Any tax imposed pursuant to this section is in addition to the  
8 taxes imposed pursuant to NRS 428.050, 428.185 and 428.285. The  
9 proceeds of any tax levied pursuant to this section are exempt from  
10 the limitations imposed by NRS 354.59811, 428.050 and 428.285  
11 and must be excluded in determining the maximum rate of tax  
12 authorized by those sections.

13 **Sec. 3.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any  
14 additional expenses of a local government that are related to the  
15 provisions of this act.

16 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

