

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **78th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1991**  
4 **By: Representative Rice**

# A Bill

**HOUSE BILL**

## **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 20-47-225 TO PROVIDE THAT  
9 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS ARE NOT LIABLE FOR CHARGES  
10 MADE BY MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR HOUSING OR TREATING  
11 MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS WHICH WERE SCREENED BY THE COMMUNITY  
12 MENTAL HEALTH CENTER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

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16 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 20-47-225 is hereby amended to read as  
17 follows:

18 "20-47-225. Liability for charges.

19 (a) Every person who is legally liable for the support of a person  
20 admitted to a receiving facility or program or hospital pursuant to this  
21 subchapter shall be liable jointly and severally with the estate of the person  
22 for the charges made by the receiving facility or program or hospital for the  
23 treatment of such patient, regardless of whether such person was a party to or  
24 consented to the admission of the person to a receiving facility or program or  
25 hospital and regardless of the extent of the estate of the person.

26 (b) Nothing in this act shall be construed as relieving from liability  
27 any person normally liable for any charges resulting from any admission  
28 hereunder, whether to the State Hospital or a private hospital, and whether  
29 admission is voluntary or involuntary.

30 (c) No community mental health center, by reason of the discharge of  
31 its responsibilities for screening, or otherwise, shall incur any liability  
32 for charges for the treatment or care of any patient admitted hereunder,  
33 whether voluntary or involuntary, to a hospital, or other facility, whether  
34 the Arkansas State Hospital or a private hospital."

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1       SECTION 2. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature  
2 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
3 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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5       SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to  
6 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
7 other provisions or applications of the Act which can be given effect without  
8 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
9 Act are declared to be severable.

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11       SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are  
12 hereby repealed.

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