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Correspondence: From John E. Mathews, Jr to Hugh A. Carithers on The Florida Senate letterhead, 1968-04-06

John E. Mathews Jr.

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VERLE A. POPE
PRESIDENT

EDWIN G. FRASER
SECRETARY

DEMPSEY J. BARRON
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

LEROY ADKISON
SERGEANT AT ARMS



THE FLORIDA SENATE

TALLAHASSEE

April 6, 1968

JOHN E. MATHEWS, JR.
SENATOR, 18TH DISTRICT
1530 AMERICAN HERITAGE LIFE BUILDING
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE AND TAXATION, CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS, VICE CHAIRMAN
GOVERNMENTAL REORGANIZATION
APPORTIONMENT, RESOLUTIONS AND
MEMORIALS
INSURANCE
JUDICIARY "B"
RULES AND CALENDAR
EDUCATION—HIGHER LEARNING

Hugh A. Crithers, M. D.
1661 Riverside Avenue, Suite B
Jacksonville, Florida 32204

Dear Hugh:

In going into the question of whether the Duval Medical Center could be turned over to a private, non-profit corporation or foundation, I find that in the most recent version of the Act concerning the Duval County Hospital Authority, which is Chapter 63-1305 Acts of 1963, there is specific power granted to the Authority to "sell, lease, transfer and dispose of any property or interest therein at any time acquired by it." This seems to give some authority to go into the matter and I would feel that it was probably the legislative intent concerning the disposition or lease of a portion of the property owned by the Authority and not all of it which would render the rest of the Act ineffective.

There is no constitutional infirmity that I know of against a further legislative Act specifically granting the Authority the power to convey property to some other entity. I still believe that a preferable first step would be to have the consolidated government, perhaps with held from the State, undertake to have a thorough management study made of the entire operation as it now exists and as projected by the present Authority. I will get a list of those nationwide firms who provide this service in the very near future and will pass it on to you. We have already ascertained that a national firm, whose local contact is Smith, Brady & Johnson, has undertaken such a survey for Duke University. You might give Charlie Johnson a call to see what are his facilities.

Sincerely,

JEM, Jr/lm

John E. Mathews, Jr.

① C9367

CHAPT 63-1305

A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT RELATING TO THE CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DUVAL COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR THE DUTIES, FUNCTIONS, PURPOSES AND POWERS OF SUCH A BODY, INCLUDING THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF HOSPITALS, AND THE TERM, GOVERNANCE, DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF OBLIGATIONS BY SUCH A BODY, INCLUDING BONDS, REVENUE CERTIFICATES AND REVENUE NOTES; PROVIDING FOR THE FINANCING THE COST OF ACQUIRING AND CONSTRUCTING FACILITIES OF SUCH AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR THE OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF HOSPITALS BY SUCH A BODY, THE METHOD OF FINANCING THE SAME AND THE TRANSFER OF EXISTING FACILITIES FROM THE DUVAL COUNTY HOSPITAL BOARD; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA: ORIGIN

SECTION 1. CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT. There is hereby created and established a body corporate and politic to be known as the "Duval County Hospital Authority" of Duval County, Florida.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. The following terms whenever used or referred to in this Act shall have the following meanings, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(a) "Authority" shall mean the body politic and corporate created by this Act and known as the Duval County Hospital Authority of Duval County, Florida.

(b) "Bonds" shall mean and include the notes, bonds, revenue certificates, refunding bonds or other evidences of indebtedness or obligations in either temporary or definitive form, which the authority is authorized to issue pursuant to this Act.

(c) "County" shall mean the County of Duval, Florida.

(d) "Facility or facilities" shall mean the Duval Medical Center, other hospitals, clinics, out-patient departments and

other appurtenant facilities of the Authority.

(e) "Federal agency" shall mean and include the United States, the president of the United States, and any department of, or corporation, agency or instrumentality heretofore or hereafter created, designated, or established by, the United States.

(f) "Members" shall mean the governing body of the Authority and the term "member" shall mean one of the individuals constituting such governing body.

(g) "Revenues" shall mean all rates, fees, rentals and other charges derived from the operation of the facilities of the Authority.

Words importing singular number shall include the plural number in each case and vice versa and words importing persons shall include firms and corporations.

Section 3. GOVERNING BODY. The governing body of the authority shall consist of seven (7) members. One (1) member of the authority shall be, ex officio, a member of the Board of County Commissioners of Duval County, Florida, to be selected by that body. Six (6) members of the authority shall be residents of Duval County who shall be appointed by the Governor and shall not hold any other public office. Two (2) of the six (6) members of the authority to be appointed by the Governor shall be members of the Duval Medical Society. Each of the six (6) members appointed by the Governor may be selected by the Governor from a list of three (3) names for each such selection, both for initial appointments and each succeeding appointment, said lists to be furnished to the Governor by a nominating committee composed of the Senator and all of the members of the House of Representatives elected to the legislature of the State of Florida from Duval County. The Governor may appoint each member of the authority from the 1st of the three (3) nominees for such position. Three (3) members of the authority who are first appointed shall be designated by the Governor to serve for a term of two years and four (4) members of the authority who are first appointed shall be designated by the Governor to serve for a term of four (4) years. Hereafter the term of office of each appointed member shall be for four (4) years.

Each appointed member shall hold office until his successor has been appointed and qualified. A vacancy occurring during a term shall be filled only for the balance of the unexpired term. The six initial appointments may be made by the Governor within sixty (60) days after this act becomes law.

The members of the authority shall not be entitled to compensation as such, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. Five (5) members of the authority shall constitute a quorum and ordinances or resolutions enacted or adopted by a vote of a majority of the members shall become effective without publication or posting or any further action of the authority.

SECTION 4. OFFICERS. Immediately after the effective date of this Act, the members of the Authority shall meet and qualify by taking the oath of office regularly prescribed for state and county officials in Florida. They shall maintain a place within Duval County for the principal office of the Authority, where the members shall meet at least once each month for the transaction of business. The members shall annually elect from among their number a Chairman, one or more Vice Chairmen and a Secretary and a Treasurer, except that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. Each member of the Authority shall give a bond by a reputable bonding company authorized to do business in the state of Florida, in an amount to be designated by a majority vote of the members, conditioned upon the faithful performance of his duties, which bond shall be kept by the Board of County Commissioners for Duval County. The premiums on said bonds shall be paid as part of the expense of the Authority.

SECTION 5. DUTIES OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep full and correct minutes of all proceedings and meetings of the Authority, and it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep separate accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the Authority.

SECTION 6. CONTROL OF EXPENDITURES. The members shall have exclusive control of all expenditures of and from the moneys, loan proceeds, contributions and Revenues of the

Authority except that persons who shall desire to make contributions for the benefit of any hospital or facilities of the Authority shall have the right to attach conditions to their gifts, and the Authority, upon accepting any such contribution, shall be controlled by the terms of the gift, bequest or devise and may, in such cases, establish funds therefor separate and apart from items of general revenue.

SECTION 7. PURPOSES AND POWERS. The Authority is hereby granted the following rights and powers and shall have and may exercise all powers necessary or appurtenant, convenient or incidental to the carrying out of the powers enumerated in this Act:

(a) To sue and be sued, implead, complain and defend in all Courts.

(b) To adopt, use and alter at will, a corporate seal.

(c) To acquire, hold, construct, improve, maintain, operate, extend, repair, own and lease hospitals, clinics and other appurtenant facilities including without limitation all lands, buildings, structures, furniture, fixtures, machinery, equipment, books, records and all other real and personal property of any kind and nature whatsoever presently owned, controlled, maintained and operated or which was heretofore or may hereafter be acquired, constructed or improved by the Duval County Hospital Board of Duval County, Florida, pursuant to the Authority granted to it by Chapter 9274, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1923, as amended.

(d) To acquire, purchase, hold, own, operate and lease and use any franchises, property, real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible or any interest therein necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of the Authority.

and this Act and to sell, lease, transfer and dispose of any property or interest therein at any time acquired by it.

(e) Provide at one time or from time to time for the issuance of bonds, revenue certificates or other obligations of the Authority, as hereinafter provided.

(f) To enter into and make leases, either as lessee or lessor, for such period or periods of time and under such terms and conditions as the Authority shall determine. Such leases may be entered into for buildings, structures or facilities constructed or acquired or to be constructed or acquired by the Authority, or may be entered into for lands owned by the Authority where the lessee of said lands agrees as a consideration for said lease to construct or acquire buildings, structures or facilities on said lands which will become the property of the Authority under such terms, rentals and other conditions as the Authority shall deem proper.

(g) To acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise, and to construct, improve, maintain, enlarge, extend, repair and operate hospitals, clinics, out-patient departments, educational facilities of all types and other appurtenant facility or facilities related thereto.

(h) To fix, alter, charge, establish and collect rates, fees, rentals and other charges for the services of the facilities of the Authority or any part thereof, at reasonable and uniform rates to be determined exclusively by the Authority for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(i) To furnish temporary relief to the indigent of the County and study the causes of their poverty; to seek a plan for their permanent rehabilitation; generally, to assist

them to support themselves whenever possible to the end that they may cease to be a charge upon the community and, instead, become useful citizens thereof; and to bury the indigent dead of the County and provide cemeteries for that purpose.

(j) To make contracts of every kind and nature and to execute all instruments necessary or convenient for the carrying on of its business.

(k) Without limitation of the foregoing, to borrow money and accept grants, contributions or loans from, and to enter into contracts, leases or other transactions with the United States government or any agency thereof, the State, or any agency thereof, the County of Duval, the City of Jacksonville, or with any other public body of any nature whatsoever.

(l) To have the power of eminent domain, such power to be exercised in the manner provided by law for the state of Florida, or agencies or instrumentalities thereof.

(m) To pledge, hypothecate or otherwise encumber all or any part of the Revenues of the Authority as security for all or any of the obligations issued by the Authority.

(n) To employ an executive director, physicians, surgeons, accountants, attorneys, bacteriologists, chemists, contractors, engineers, architects, superintendents, nurses, technicians, managers, construction and financial experts, radiologists, or any other person or persons skilled in hygiene or medical research, and such other employees and agents as may, in the judgment of the Authority, be necessary, and fix their compensation.

(c) To provide for those of the inhabitants of the County who, by reason of age, infirmity or misfortune, have claims upon the aid and sympathy of society.

(p) To receive and accept grants, gifts and donations from any person, firm or governmental agency.

(c) To do all acts and things necessary or convenient in the carrying out of the powers granted herein.

SECTION 8. ISSUANCE OF OBLIGATIONS.

(a) On or after October 1, 1964, the Authority is hereby authorized to provide by Resolution at one time or from time to time for the issuance of bonds or revenue certificates, or both, (herein in this Section collectively referred to as "bonds"), of the Authority for the purpose of paying all or a part of the cost of acquisition, construction, repairing, extensions, additions, equipping and reconstruction of any facilities of the Authority. The bonds of each issue shall be dated, shall bear interest at such rate or rates not exceeding six per cent per annum, shall mature at such time or times, not exceeding forty years from their date or dates, as may be determined by the Authority, and may be made redeemable before maturity, at the option of the Authority, at such price or prices and under such terms and conditions as may be fixed by the Authority prior to the issuance of the bonds. The Authority shall determine the form of the bonds, including any interest coupons to be attached thereto, and the manner of execution of the bonds and coupons, and shall fix the denomination or denominations of the bonds and the place or places of payment of principal and interest, which may be at any bank or trust company within or without the state. In case any officer whose signature or a facsimile

of whose signature shall appear on any bonds or coupons shall cease to be such officer before the delivery of such bonds, such signature or signatures shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes the same as if he had remained in office until such delivery. All bonds issued under the provisions of this Chapter shall have and as hereby declared to have all the qualities and incidents of negotiable instruments under the negotiable instruments laws of the state. The bonds may be issued in coupon or in registered form, or both, as the Authority may determine, and provisions may be made for the registration of any coupon bonds as to principal alone and also as to both principal and interest, and for the redemption into coupon bonds of any bonds registered as to both principal and interest. The issuance of such bonds shall not be subject to any limitations or conditions contained in any order or law and the Authority may sell such bonds in such manner and for such price, as it may determine to be for the best interest of the Authority, but no such sale shall be made at a price so low as to require the payment of interest on the money received therefor at more than six per cent per annum, computed with relation to the absolute maturity of the bonds in accordance with standard tables of bond values, excluding, however, from such computations the amount of any premium to be paid on redemption of any bonds prior to maturity. Prior to the preparation of definitive bonds, the Authority may, under like restrictions, issue interim receipts or temporary bonds with or without coupons, exchangeable for definitive bonds when such bonds have been executed

and are available for delivery. The Authority may also provide for the replacement of any bonds which shall be mutilated or be destroyed or lost.

(b) Bonds may be issued under the provisions of this Chapter without obtaining the consent of any commission, board, bureau or agency of the state or county and without any other proceedings or the happening of any other condition or thing than those proceedings, conditions or things which are specifically required by this Chapter.

(c) The proceeds of the bonds shall be used solely for the payment of the cost of the facilities for which such bonds shall have been authorized and shall be disbursed in the manner provided in the Resolution or in the Trust Agreement authorizing the issuance of such bonds. If the proceeds of the bonds of any issue shall exceed the amount required for the purpose for which the same shall have been issued, the surplus shall be set aside and used only for paying the principal of and interest on such bonds. In the event that the actual cost of the project exceeds the estimated cost, the Authority may issue additional bonds to cover the deficiency, subject to the same restrictions as required for the original issue.

SECTION 9. BONDS. On or after October 1, 1964, bonds may be issued by the Authority for the purposes herein provided in an amount, including any bonds then outstanding, not exceeding \$20,000,000, provided the issuance of such bonds shall have been approved by a majority of the votes cast in an election in which a majority of the freeholders who are qualified electors residing in the County shall participate. Such elec-

2503

tion shall be called, noticed, conducted and the result thereof determined and declared in the manner required by law for the issuance of bonds of the County. For the prompt payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds, the Authority is hereby authorized and required to provide for the annual levy of a special tax not to exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ mills upon all taxable property within the County, over and above all other taxes authorized or limited by law, sufficient to pay such principal and interest as the same respectively become due and payable, and the proceeds of all such taxes shall be deposited as received to the credit of a sinking fund and used for no other purposes than for the payment of such principal and interest; provided, however, that the Revenues derived from the operation of any facility or any combination of the facilities of the Authority shall, if so authorized by the Resolution providing for the issuance of such bonds, be deposited to the credit of the sinking fund for such bonds and in that event the amount of the annual levy herein required may be reduced in any year by the amount of such Revenues actually received in the preceding (excluding any depreciation fund) and then remaining on deposit to the credit of the sinking fund for the payment of such principal and interest.

SECTION 10. REVENUE CERTIFICATES.

(a) Revenue certificates issued under the provisions of this Chapter shall be payable from the Revenues derived from the operation of any facility or combination of facilities under the supervision, operation and control of the Authority and from any other funds legally available therefor. The issuance of such revenue certificates shall not directly, in-

directly or contingently obligate the State, the Authority or the County to levy any ad valorem taxes or to make any appropriations for their payment.

(b) The Authority shall not convey or mortgage any facility or any part thereof as security for the payment of the revenue certificates.

(c) In the discretion of the Authority, each or any issue of such revenue certificates may be secured by a trust agreement by and between the Authority and a corporate trustee, which may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or outside of the State. Such trust agreement may pledge or assign the Revenues to be received by the Authority. The resolution providing for the issuance of revenue certificates or such trust agreements may contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the certificate holders as may be reasonable, proper and not in violation of law, including covenants setting forth the duties of the Authority in relation to the acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, operation, repair, equipping and insurance of the facilities, and the custody, safeguarding and application of all moneys. It shall be lawful for any bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of this State to act as such depository and to furnish such indemnifying bonds or to pledge such securities as may be required by the Authority. Such resolution or such trust agreement may restrict the individual right of action by certificate holders as is customary in trust agreements securing bonds or debentures of corporations. In addition.

to the foregoing, such resolution or such trust agreement may contain such other provisions as the Authority may deem reasonable and proper for the security of certificate holders. Except as in this Chapter otherwise provided, the Authority may provide, by resolution or by trust agreement, for the payment of the proceeds of the sale of the revenue certificates and the Revenues of the facilities to such officer, board or depository as it may determine for the custody thereof, and for the method of disbursement thereof, with such safeguards and restrictions as it may determine. All expenses incurred in carrying out such trust agreement may be treated as a part of the cost of operation of the facilities affected by such trust agreement.

(d) The resolution or trust agreement providing for the issuance of the revenue certificates may also contain such limitations upon the issuance of additional revenue certificates as the Authority may deem proper, and such additional certificates shall be issued under such restrictions or limitations as may be prescribed by such resolution or trust agreement.

SECTION 12. REFUNDING OBLIGATIONS. The Authority is hereby authorized to provide by resolution for the issuance of refunding bonds or refunding revenue certificates for the purpose of refunding any bonds or revenue certificates, respectively, then outstanding and issued under the provisions of this Chapter. The Authority is further authorized to provide by resolution for the issuance of revenue certificates for the combined purpose of (a) paying the cost of any acqui-

sition, construction, extension, addition, improving, equipping or reconstruction of a facility or facilities of the Authority and (b) refunding revenue certificates of the Authority which shall theretofore have been issued under the provisions of this Chapter and shall then be outstanding. The issuance of such obligations, the maturities and other details thereof, the right and remedies of the holders thereof, the rights, powers, privileges, duties and obligations of the Authority with respect to the same shall be governed by the foregoing provisions of this Chapter insofar as the same may be applicable.

SECTION 12. RE-REGISTRATION OF FREEHOLDERS. The Board of County Commissioners of Duval County, Florida shall, when presented with a resolution adopted by the Authority requesting a re-registration of the freeholder electors of such County, call such re-registration for the purpose of securing a new and up-to-date list of such freeholder electors in such County to participate in any election called for the purpose of approving the issuance of bonds under this Chapter. The cost of making the call and conducting the re-registration provided for by this section shall be borne by the Authority. Such re-registration shall be noticed and conducted in the manner required by the general laws of the State of Florida for the re-registration of county freeholder electors.

SECTION 13. FREEHOLDER ELECTION. The Board of County Commissioners of Duval County, Florida shall, when presented with a resolution adopted by the Authority requesting the holding of a freeholder election to approve the issu-

2503

narily of an ad valorem tax upon all taxable property within the County to finance the administration of the Authority and to pay for the maintenance, operation, equipping and administration of the facilities of the Authority; provided that the rate thereof shall not exceed a maximum of eight (8) mills per annum. The millage necessary to pay these expenses shall be levied by the Board of County Commissioners of Duval County separately from the millage necessary to pay the debt service on bonds of the Authority.

SECTION 17. METHOD OF LEVYING TAXES. Immediately after the assessment of properties within the County shall have been reviewed and equalized by the Board of County Commissioners of Duval County each year, beginning with the year 1964, the amount of such valuation as finally equalized shall be the valuation for taxation by the Authority. The Authority shall thereupon determine by resolution each year, beginning with the year 1964, the total amount to be raised that year by taxation upon such taxable property located within the County. The amount necessary to pay the principal and interest on outstanding bonds and the amount necessary for the maintenance, operation, equipping and administration of the facilities of the Authority as above provided, shall be stated separately. Such resolution shall also set forth the rate of taxation which, when levied upon all the taxable property within the County, will produce the sum of money determined by the Authority as the total amount to be raised for such purposes for such year by taxation. The amount of millage to be levied to pay the debt service on bonds of the Authority and to pay the general expenses of the Authority shall not exceed the limitations set

forth in Sections 15 and 16, respectively, of this Chapter.

A copy of such tax resolution, properly certified, shall request the Board of County Commissioners to levy the tax as above provided and shall be transmitted forthwith to the Board of County Commissioners of Duval County and to the Budget Commission of Duval County on or before the 1st day of May of each year. Neither the Board of County Commissioners nor the Budget Commission shall have any right or authority to alter, change, revise or amend such request and provisions for the tax as included in such resolution, except that the Budget Commission may alter, change, revise or amend the provisions in such resolution which relate to the tax for the general administration of the Authority and to pay for the maintenance, operation, equipping and administration of the facilities of the Authority to be levied pursuant to Section 16 herein in such manner as is provided by law. In the event that the assessment of properties within the County shall not have been reviewed and equalized by the Board of County Commissioners prior to the transmittal of such tax resolution, then the Board of County Commissioners shall adjust the rate of taxation necessary to produce the sum of money determined by the Authority as the total amount to be raised by taxation for such year; provided, however, that this power to adjust the millage shall not in any way either directly or indirectly operate to alter, amend, reduce, increase, or change the total amount so determined by the Authority to be raised. Upon receipt of the certified copy of the resolution of the Authority as aforesaid and of the resolution of the Budget Commission relating to such matter, the Board of County Commissioners of Duval

County shall order and direct the County Tax Assessor of such County to assess and levy, and the County Tax Collector to collect, the tax at the rate fixed and determined by such Resolution, as adjusted by the Board of County Commissioners, and the said assessments and levies shall be included in the tax roll and warrant of the County Tax Assessor for each fiscal year. The County Tax Assessor shall levy and assess and the County Tax Collector shall collect such taxes in the same manner and at the same time as state and county taxes are levied, assessed and collected. The County Tax Collector shall pay and remit the same upon the collection thereof directly to the Authority.

SECTION 18. EXEMPTION OF PROPERTY FROM TAXATION.

The effectuation of the purposes of the Authority created under this Chapter is, shall and will be in all respects for the benefit of the people of the State and of Duval County, for the increase of their commerce and prosperity and for the improvement of their health, welfare and living conditions. The exercise of the powers by the Authority, conferred by this Chapter, to effect such purposes constitute the performance of essential county functions, and is hereby declared to be a county purpose. As the facilities owned, operated, supervised and controlled by the Authority, under the provisions of this Chapter, constitute public property and are used for County purposes, the Authority shall not be required to pay any taxes or assessments upon any such facilities or any parts thereof.

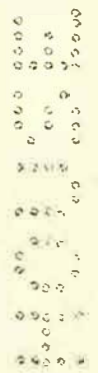
SECTION 19. OBLIGATIONS TO CONSTITUTE LEGAL INVESTMENTS. Any bonds, revenue certificates or other obligations issued pursuant to this Chapter shall be and constitute legal

Jan 10, 1963

investments for banks, savings banks, trustees, executors, administrators and all other fiduciaries for all state, municipal and public funds and shall also be and constitute securities eligible for deposit as security for all state, municipal or other public funds notwithstanding the provisions of any other law or laws to the contrary.

SECTION 20. TRANSFER OF EXISTING FACILITIES.

(a) Within six (6) months after the effective date of this law, all of the right, title and interest of the Duval County Hospital Board in and to the existing hospital facilities situated in Jacksonville, Florida and known as the Duval Medical Center, including all land, buildings, structures, furniture, fixtures, machinery, equipment, books, records and all other real and personal property of any kind and nature whatsoever, and all powers, jurisdiction and control over or relating thereto, heretofore vested in the Duval County Hospital Board by reason of Chapter 9274, Laws of 1963, as amended, shall, upon request of the Authority, be transferred, set over, assigned and conveyed to said Authority and the said Duval County Hospital Board shall thereupon transmit to the proper officers of the Authority all deeds, conveyances, documents, books and records relating to said Duval County Hospital Board and shall execute all necessary documents and papers to carry out and consummate the conveyance and transfer of said property to said Authority. There shall be included in the transfer of such assets, without any action being required by any governmental body or person, all monies or funds appropriated by the Legislature of the State of Florida for the years 1963 and 1964 for (1) constructing, expanding, renovating, repair-



ing and improving the existing hospital units, out-patient clinics, nurses' homes and schools and indigent relief departments of The Duval County Hospital Board and (2) the maintenance, operation, equipping and administration of the facilities of The Duval County Hospital Board; provided, however, that the sums of money appropriated for the year 1964 for the maintenance and operation of such facilities shall be null and void and of no force and effect in the event that the Authority becomes operative and exercises the powers granted to it under Sections 16 and 17 hereof; and provided, further, that the moneys appropriated for constructing, expanding and renovating such existing facilities shall be reduced for the year 1964 by the amount required for debt service for such year in the event that the Authority exercises its right to and does issue obligations hereunder, to the end that the aggregate amount required for debt service and for such construction, expansion and renovation for such year shall not exceed 1 1/2 mills.

(b) This Section, without reference to any other laws, shall be deemed to be and shall constitute complete authority for the transfer, assignment, and conveyance herein authorized. Any provision of other laws to the contrary notwithstanding and no proceedings or other actions shall be required, except as herein prescribed.

SECTION 21. USE OF FACILITIES. Every hospital, out-patient clinic or other facility heretofore established by act of Legislature in Duval County, Florida (with the exception of the hospital established for the Jacksonville Beaches by Chapter 25807, Laws of Florida, Special Acts of 1949) and every hospital, out-patient clinic or other facility established by

2503

the Authority subsequent to the effective date of this Act shall be for the use and benefit of the sick, infirm and injured persons and shall be under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Authority. The indigent sick, who have resided in Duval County for not less than one (1) year next preceding their application for admission for treatment, shall be admitted to such hospitals, out-patient clinics or other facilities and shall be entitled to occupancy, nursing care, medicine and attendance without charge, subject to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Authority. Such hospitals, out-patient clinics and other facilities shall care for and treat without charge patients who are found by the Authority to be indigent, but the Authority shall collect from patients financially able such charges as the Authority may from time to time establish. The Authority shall have the power to extend the benefits and privileges to non-residents of Duval County upon such terms and conditions as the Authority may from time to time by its rules and regulations provide; provided, however, that the indigent residents of Duval County shall have the first claim to admission.

Section 22. RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES. When the facilities of the Duval County Hospital Board are transferred and conveyed to the Authority under the provisions of this Act, all employees of the Duval County Hospital Board shall become and be employees of the Authority; provided, however, none of said employees shall lose any rights or benefits of any kind whatsoever afforded them as such employees of the Duval County Hospital Board, by the laws relating to pension funds, civil service, statutory service raises and seniority, and such rights and benefits are hereby preserved to said employees, and all of such laws shall be applicable to all the employees of the Authority except those who are employed in the unclassified service as defined in the Duval County Civil Service law. The Authority shall not change the classification plan for said employees established under the civil service law, nor abolish the position of any such employee, nor reduce the salary of any such employee, nor suspend, dismiss, demote or

promote any such employee except in accordance with the civil service law and with the approval of the civil service board in actions and proceedings wherein the Authority shall act as the appointing authority.

SECTION 23. ACT COMPLETE AND ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.

The powers conferred by this Act shall be in addition and supplemental to the existing powers of the Authority, if any, and this Chapter shall not be construed as repealing any of the provisions of any other law, general, special or local, but shall be deemed to supersede such other law or laws in the exercise of the powers provided in this Act insofar as such other law or laws are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and to provide a complete method for the exercise of the powers granted here.

SECTION 24. SEPARABILITY. If any section, clause or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or ineffective in whole or in part to the extent that it is not unconstitutional or ineffective, it shall be valid and effective, and no other section, clause or provision shall in respect thereof be deemed invalid or ineffective.

SECTION 25. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act shall take effect upon its becoming a law.

2500

Became a law without the Governor's approval.

Filed in Office Secretary of State JUL 10 1963