

Senate Bill No. 532

An act relating to trust funds; re-creating the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund within the Department of Health without modification; carrying forward current balances and continuing current sources and uses thereof; amending s. 20.435, F.S.; abrogating future termination of the trust fund; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to extend the life of the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund within the Department of Health, which is otherwise scheduled to be terminated pursuant to constitutional mandate, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has reviewed the trust fund before its scheduled termination date and has found that it continues to meet an important public purpose, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has found that existing public policy concerning the trust fund sets adequate parameters for its use, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. (1) The Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund within the Department of Health, FLAIR number 64-2-352, which is to be terminated pursuant to Section 19(f), Article III of the State Constitution on July 1, 2001, is re-created.

(2) All current balances of the trust fund are carried forward, and all current sources and uses of the trust fund are continued.

Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 20.435, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20.435 Department of Health; trust funds.—

(1) The following trust funds are hereby created, to be administered by the Department of Health:

(d) Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund.

1. Funds to be credited to the trust fund shall consist of fees and fines related to the licensing of health care professionals. Funds shall be used for the purpose of providing administrative support for the regulation of health care professionals and for other such purposes as may be appropriate and shall be expended only pursuant to legislative appropriation or an approved amendment to the department's operating budget pursuant to the provisions of chapter 216.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in the trust fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund at the end of the year and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust fund.

~~3. The trust fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2001.~~

Section 3. This act shall take effect November 4, 2000.

Approved by the Governor March 30, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 30, 2000.