

STORAGE NAME: h1519.hcr

DATE: April 6, 1997

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH CARE STANDARDS & REGULATORY REFORM
BILL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

BILL #: HB 1519

RELATING TO: Rural Hospital Definition

SPONSOR(S): Representative Westbrook

STATUTE(S) AFFECTED: Sections. 395.602 and 408.07, F.S.

COMPANION BILL(S): None.

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) HEALTH CARE STANDARDS & REGULATORY REFORM
- (2) HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

I. SUMMARY:

This bill would increase the maximum number of licensed beds allowed in a rural hospital from 85 to 100. According to the Agency, the effect of this bill would be to increase the number of rural hospitals from 27 to 29.

This bill will not have any fiscal impact on the state, local government, or the private sector.

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

According to the Agency for Health Care Administration, there are currently 27 rural hospitals in the state which meet the rural hospital definition as it presently exists in the statutes. Rural hospitals receive special exemptions regarding certificate of need requirements for Hospice, Home Health, and ability to convert up to 50% of their acute beds to nursing home beds. They are also exempt from having to submit a budget letter and from receiving penalties under hospital budget review statutes. These hospitals currently receive a portion of the rural hospital disproportionate share funding.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

According to the Agency, this change would increase the number of rural hospitals from 27 to 29. While it would further divide the amount of fixed funds distributed to rural hospitals through the disproportionate share program, it would not burden that, or any other, funding program.

C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

No.

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

No.

(3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

No.

b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

(1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

No.

(2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

No.

(3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

No.

2. Lower Taxes:

a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

No.

b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

No.

c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

No.

d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

No.

e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

No.

3. Personal Responsibility:

a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

No.

b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

No.

4. Individual Freedom:

- a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

Yes. The two new hospitals falling under the definition of rural, would be much more flexible. They would be exempt from certain certificate of need requirements. These hospitals would be able to convert 50% of their acute beds to nursing home beds. They would also no longer be required to submit a budget letter or receive penalties under the hospital budget review statutes.

- b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

No.

5. Family Empowerment:

- a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

(1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A.

(2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A.

(3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A.

(4) Are families required to participate in a program?

N/A.

(5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

N/A.

- b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

No.

- c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

(1) parents and guardians?

N/A.

(2) service providers?

N/A.

(3) government employees/agencies?

N/A.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION RESEARCH:

Section 1: Amends the definition of rural hospital in s. 395.602(2)(e), F.S., by increasing the licensed bed limit from a maximum of 85 to a maximum of 100.

Section 2: Amends the definition of a rural hospital in s. 408.07(42), F.S., by increasing the licenced bed limit from a maximum of 85 to a maximum of 100.

Section 3: Adds an effective date of July 1, 1997.

III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

2. Recurring Effects:

None.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

2. Recurring Effects:

None.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

None.

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

None.

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise and Employment Markets:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The Agency for Health Care Administration estimates that it will incur no fiscal impact from this legislation.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenue in the aggregate.

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C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE STANDARDS & REGULATORY REFORM:

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