

By Representative Westbrook

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to rural hospitals; amending  
3           ss. 395.602 and 408.07, F.S.; revising the  
4           definition of "rural hospital" to increase the  
5           allowable number of licensed beds; providing an  
6           effective date.

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

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10           Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section  
11   395.602, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12           395.602 Rural hospitals.--

13           (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this part:

14           (e) "Rural hospital" means an acute care hospital  
15   licensed under this chapter, with 100 ~~85~~ licensed beds or  
16   less, which has an emergency room and is located in an area  
17   defined as rural by the United States Census, and which is:

18           1. The sole provider within a county with a population  
19   density of no greater than 100 persons per square mile; or

20           2. An acute care hospital, in a county with a  
21   population density of no greater than 100 persons per square  
22   mile, which is at least 30 minutes of travel time, on normally  
23   traveled roads under normal traffic conditions, from any other  
24   acute care hospital within the same county; or

25           3. A hospital supported by a tax district or  
26   subdistrict whose boundaries encompass a population of 100  
27   persons or less per square mile.

28           Section 2. Subsection (47) of section 408.07, Florida  
29   Statutes, is amended to read:

30           408.07 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, with the  
31   exception of ss. 408.031-408.045, the term:

1           (47) "Rural hospital" means an acute care hospital  
2 licensed under chapter 395, with 100 ~~85~~ licensed beds or  
3 fewer, which has an emergency room and is located in an area  
4 defined as rural by the United States Census, and which is:

5           (a) The sole provider within a county with a  
6 population density of no greater than 100 persons per square  
7 mile;

8           (b) An acute care hospital, in a county with a  
9 population density of no greater than 100 persons per square  
10 mile, which is at least 30 minutes of travel time, on normally  
11 traveled roads under normal traffic conditions, from another  
12 acute care hospital within the same county; or

13           (c) A hospital supported by a tax district or  
14 subdistrict whose boundaries encompass a population of 100  
15 persons or less per square mile.

16           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

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19           HOUSE SUMMARY

20           Increases from 85 to 100 the maximum number of licensed beds  
21 allowed a rural hospital under the statutory definitions of  
22 the term.  
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