

By Senator Childers

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to rural hospitals; amending
ss. 395.602 and 408.07, F.S.; revising a
definition; requiring a study; providing an
effective date.

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

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

395.602 Rural hospitals.--

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

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

- 1. The sole provider within a county with a population
density of no greater than 100 persons per square mile; or
- 2. An acute care hospital, in a county with a
population density of no greater than 100 persons per square
mile, which is at least 30 minutes of travel time, on normally
traveled roads under normal traffic conditions, from any other
acute care hospital within the same county; or
- 3. A hospital supported by a tax district or
subdistrict whose boundaries encompass a population of 100
persons or fewer less per square mile.

Population densities used in this paragraph must be based upon
the most recently completed United States census.

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

1 408.07 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, with the
2 exception of ss. 408.031-408.045, the term:

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

8 (a) The sole provider within a county with a
9 population density of no greater than 100 persons per square
10 mile;

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

16 (c) A hospital supported by a tax district or
17 subdistrict whose boundaries encompass a population of 100
18 persons or fewer less per square mile.

19 Population densities used in this subsection must be based
20 upon the most recently completed United States census.

21 Section 3. The Agency for Health Care Administration
22 is directed to evaluate, in consultation with the Department
23 of Health and representatives of the hospital industry, the
24 adequacy of the statutory definition of "rural hospital" as
25 defined in ss. 395.602 and 408.07, Florida Statutes. In its
26 analysis the agency may consider economic and demographic
27 factors, federal rules and regulations, health planning
28 principles, and the potential impact of alternative
29 definitions on the communities that contain rural hospitals as
30 currently defined. The agency shall submit its findings and
31 recommendations to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of

