

By Representative Burroughs

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

6  
7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

8  
9           Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section  
10   395.602, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11           395.602 Rural hospitals.--

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

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

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

30           Section 2. Subsection (47) of section 408.07, Florida  
31   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

1 Representatives, and the President of the Senate no later than  
2 December 31, 1999.

3 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
4 law.

5  
6 \*\*\*\*\*

7 SENATE SUMMARY

8 Modifies the definition of the term "rural hospital."  
9 Requires a study by the Agency for Health Care  
10 Administration, in consultation with the Department of  
11 Health and representatives of the hospital industry, on  
12 the adequacy of the definition.  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31