

By Representatives Kilmer and Casey

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to trust funds; creating s.
3 395.607, F.S.; creating the Rural Hospital
4 Capital Improvement Trust Fund within the
5 Department of Health; providing an annual
6 appropriation for a specified period and
7 providing for quarterly distribution thereof
8 over that period for specified purposes;
9 providing for reimbursement or deduction and
10 subsequent redistribution of amounts used for
11 unauthorized purposes; providing applicability
12 to new rural hospitals during a fiscal year;
13 providing rulemaking authority; providing for
14 future review and termination or re-creation of
15 the trust fund; providing an effective date.

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

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19 Section 1. Section 395.607, Florida Statutes, is
20 created to read:

21 395.607 Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Trust
22 Fund.--

23 (1) The Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Trust Fund
24 is hereby created within the department.

25 (2) The sum of \$14 million shall be appropriated from
26 the General Revenue Fund to the trust fund annually for 10
27 years and shall be distributed equally, on a quarterly basis,
28 over that 10-year period to all rural hospitals regulated
29 under this part. For purposes of this section, "rural
30 hospital" means any hospital or health education center
31 defined in s. 395.602(2). Funds distributed under this

1 subsection shall be made in equal payments at the end of each
2 quarter during the fiscal year, and the amount to be
3 distributed each quarter shall be based on general revenue
4 receipts deposited into the trust fund for that quarter.

5 (3) The purpose of the trust fund is to provide funds
6 for acquiring, repairing, improving, and upgrading systems,
7 facilities, and equipment for rural hospitals, and the
8 department shall ensure that the funds provided are used
9 solely for such purposes. A rural hospital provided funds
10 under this section must reimburse the trust fund for the total
11 amount of any funds used for a purpose not authorized by this
12 section or have such amount deducted from a future
13 distribution, and such reimbursed or deducted funds shall be
14 distributed equally at the time of such reimbursement or
15 deduction to the other rural hospitals provided funds under
16 this section at that time.

17 (4) For any fiscal year, distributions from the trust
18 fund may be made only to a hospital that was defined as a
19 rural hospital prior to July 1 of that fiscal year. Any
20 additional hospital that is defined as a rural hospital on or
21 after July 1 of the applicable fiscal year is not eligible for
22 funds under this section for that fiscal year unless
23 additional funds are appropriated that fiscal year
24 specifically to the trust fund in an amount necessary to
25 prevent any rural hospital that is eligible for a distribution
26 for that fiscal year from incurring a reduction in payments
27 because of the eligibility of the additional rural hospital
28 for a distribution.

29 (5) The department has authority to adopt rules
30 pursuant to ss. 120.54 and 120.536(1) to implement and enforce
31 the provisions of this section.

1 (6) Pursuant to the provisions of s. 19(f)(2), Art.
2 III of the State Constitution, the trust fund shall, unless
3 terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2003. Prior to
4 its scheduled termination, the trust fund shall be reviewed as
5 provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2).

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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9 HOUSE SUMMARY

10 Creates the Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Trust Fund
11 within the Department of Health. Provides an annual
12 appropriation for a specified period and provides for
13 quarterly distribution thereof over that period for
14 specified purposes. Provides for reimbursement or
15 deduction and subsequent redistribution of amounts used
16 for unauthorized purposes. Provides applicability to new
17 rural hospitals during a fiscal year. Provides rulemaking
18 authority. Provides for future review and termination or
19 re-creation of the trust fund.
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