

By Representatives Cosgrove and Sorensen

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to rural hospitals; amending s.  
3           408.07, F.S.; redefining the term "rural  
4           hospital" for the purpose of state law  
5           governing health care administration to include  
6           certain hospitals in charter counties;  
7           providing for future review and repeal;  
8           providing an effective date.

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

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12           Section 1. Subsection (42) of section 408.07, Florida  
13   Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read.

14           408.07 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, with the  
15   exception of ss. 408.031-408.045, the term:

16           (42) "Rural hospital" means an acute care hospital  
17   licensed under chapter 395, having 100 or fewer licensed beds  
18   and an emergency room, located in an area defined as rural by  
19   the United States Census, and which is:

20           (a) The sole provider within a county with a  
21   population density of no greater than 100 persons per square  
22   mile;

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

28           (c) A hospital supported by a tax district or  
29   subdistrict whose boundaries encompass a population of 100  
30   persons or fewer per square mile; or

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1       (d) A hospital in a constitutional charter county with  
2 a population of over 1 million persons that has imposed a  
3 local option health service tax pursuant to law and in an area  
4 that was directly impacted by a catastrophic event on August  
5 24, 1992, for which the Governor of Florida declared a state  
6 of emergency pursuant to chapter 125, and has 120 beds or less  
7 that serves an agricultural community with an emergency room  
8 utilization of no less than 20,000 visits and a Medicaid  
9 in-patient utilization rate greater than 15 percent.

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

13       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999,  
14 and shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2006, unless  
15 reviewed and readopted by the Legislature prior to that date.

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18                   HOUSE SUMMARY

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20       Redefines the term "rural hospital" for the purpose of  
21 state law governing health care administration to include  
22 a hospital in a constitutional charter county with a  
23 population of over 1 million persons that has imposed a  
24 local option health service tax pursuant to law and in an  
25 area that was directly impacted by a catastrophic event  
26 declared a state of emergency pursuant to chapter 125,  
27 F.S., and has 120 beds or less that serves an  
28 agricultural community with an emergency room utilization  
29 of no less than 20,000 visits and a Medicaid in-patient  
30 utilization rate greater than 15 percent. Provides for  
31 repeal on July 1, 2006, unless reviewed and readopted by  
the Legislature prior to that date.