

By Senators Mitchell, Geller, Childers, Cowin, Thomas, Kirkpatrick and Jones

4-521A-99

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to rural hospital capital improvement; creating s. 395.6061, F.S.; creating the Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Trust Fund; prescribing uses of the fund; providing duties of the Department of Health; providing a recurring appropriation; providing a contingent effective date and an expiration date.

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

Section 1. Section 395.6061, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

395.6061 Rural hospital capital improvement.--

(1) There is created the Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Trust Fund in the State Treasury, which shall be used exclusively for the support and assistance of rural hospitals and rural area health education centers as defined in s. 395.602. Trust fund revenue shall be used for the purpose of acquiring, repairing, improving, and upgrading systems, facilities, and equipment. The Department of Health shall ensure that the funds are used solely for the purposes specified in this section.

(2) The sum of \$13.5 million is appropriated annually from the Department of Health Grants and Donations Trust Fund to the Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Trust Fund. These moneys shall be distributed quarterly, in equal amounts, to all rural hospitals and rural area health education centers regulated under this part.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2009.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999,
2 but it shall not take effect unless it is enacted by a
3 three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the
4 Legislature.

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7 SENATE SUMMARY

8 Creates the Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Trust Fund
9 to provide funds for acquiring, repairing, improving, and
10 upgrading systems, facilities, and equipment of rural
11 hospitals and rural area health education centers. The
12 sum of \$13.5 million annually deposited into the fund
13 will be distributed in equal amounts to rural hospitals
14 and rural area health education centers quarterly for 10
15 years.