

By the Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care; and
Senators Mitchell, Geller, Childers, Cowin, Thomas,
Kirkpatrick, Jones and Rossin

317-1920A-99

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to rural hospital capital
3 improvement; creating s. 395.6061, F.S.;
4 providing a mechanism for the disbursement of
5 funds to rural hospitals; providing application
6 requirements; prescribing uses of the fund;
7 providing duties of the Department of Health;
8 providing rulemaking authority for the
9 establishment of criteria for the disbursement
10 of grant funds; providing an effective date.

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

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

16 395.6061 Rural hospital capital improvement.--There is
17 established a rural hospital capital improvement grant
18 program.

19 (1) A rural hospital as defined in s. 395.602 may
20 apply to the department for a grant. The grant application
21 must provide information that includes:

22 (a) A statement indicating the problem the rural
23 hospital proposes to solve with the grant funds;

24 (b) The strategy proposed to resolve the problem;

25 (c) The organizational structure, financial system,
26 and facilities that are essential to the proposed solution;

27 (d) The projected longevity of the proposed solution
28 after the grant funds are expended;

29 (e) Evidence of participation in a rural health
30 network as defined in s. 381.0406;

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1 (f) Evidence that the rural hospital has difficulty in
2 obtaining funding or that funds available for the proposed
3 solution are inadequate;

4 (g) Evidence that the grant funds will assist in
5 maintaining or returning the hospital to an economically
6 stable condition or that any plan for closure or realignment
7 of services will involve development of innovative
8 alternatives for the discontinued services;

9 (h) Evidence of a satisfactory record-keeping system
10 to account for grant fund expenditures within the rural
11 county;

12 (i) A rural health network plan that includes a
13 description of how the plan was developed, the goals of the
14 plan, the links with existing health care providers under the
15 plan, indicators quantifying the hospital's financial
16 well-being, measurable outcome targets, and the current
17 physical and operational condition of the hospital.

18 (2) Each rural hospital as defined in s. 395.602 shall
19 receive a minimum of \$100,000 annually, subject to legislative
20 appropriation, upon application to the Department of Health,
21 for projects to acquire, repair, improve, or upgrade systems,
22 facilities, or equipment.

23 (3) Any remaining funds shall annually be disbursed to
24 rural hospitals in accordance with this section. The
25 Department of Health shall establish, by rule, criteria for
26 awarding grants for any remaining funds, which must be used
27 exclusively for the support and assistance of rural hospitals
28 as defined in s. 395.602, including criteria relating to the
29 level of uncompensated care rendered by the hospital, the
30 participation in a rural health network as defined in s.
31 381.0406, and the proposed use of the grant by the rural

1 hospital to resolve a specific problem. The department must
2 consider any information submitted in an application for the
3 grants in accordance with subsection (1) in determining
4 eligibility for and the amount of the grant, and none of the
5 individual items of information by itself may be used to deny
6 grant eligibility.

7 (4) The department shall ensure that the funds are
8 used solely for the purposes specified in this section.

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

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11 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
12 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
13 Senate Bill 890

14 The committee substitute creates the rural hospital capital
15 improvement grant program and provides a mechanism for a rural
16 hospital to apply for a grant from the Department of Health.
17 Each rural hospital as defined in s. 395.602, Florida
18 Statutes, must receive a minimum of \$100,000 annually, subject
19 to legislative appropriation, upon application to the
20 Department of Health, for projects to acquire, repair,
21 improve, or upgrade systems, facilities, or equipment. The
22 Department of Health must establish, by rule, criteria for
23 awarding grants for any remaining funds, which must be used
24 exclusively for the support and assistance of rural hospitals.
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