

By Senators Peaden, Jones and Klein

2-192-03

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to rural hospitals; amending
3 ss. 395.602 and 408.07, F.S.; revising the
4 definition of the term "rural hospital";
5 providing an effective date.

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

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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 100 or fewer licensed beds
15 and an emergency room, which is:

16 1. The sole provider within a county with a population
17 density of no greater than 100 persons per square mile;

18 2. An acute care hospital, in a county with a
19 population density of no greater than 100 persons per square
20 mile, which is at least 30 minutes of travel time, on normally
21 traveled roads under normal traffic conditions, from any other
22 acute care hospital within the same county;

23 3. A hospital supported by a tax district or
24 subdistrict whose boundaries encompass a population of 100
25 persons or fewer per square mile;

26 4. A hospital in a constitutional charter county with
27 a population of over 1 million persons that has imposed a
28 local option health service tax pursuant to law and in an area
29 that was directly impacted by a catastrophic event on August
30 24, 1992, for which the Governor of Florida declared a state
31 of emergency pursuant to chapter 125, and has 120 beds or less

1 that serves an agricultural community with an emergency room
2 utilization of no less than 20,000 visits and a Medicaid
3 in-patient utilization rate greater than 15 percent;

4 5. A hospital with a service area that has a
5 population of 100 persons or fewer per square mile. As used in
6 this subparagraph, the term "service area" means the fewest
7 number of zip codes that account for 75 percent of the
8 hospital's discharges for the most recent 5-year period, based
9 on information available from the hospital inpatient discharge
10 database in the State Center for Health Statistics at the
11 Agency for Health Care Administration; or

12 6. A hospital designated as a Critical Access Hospital
13 by the Department of Health in accordance with federal
14 regulations and state requirements.

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16 Population densities used in this paragraph must be based upon
17 the most recently completed United States census. A hospital
18 that received funds under s. 409.9116 for a quarter beginning
19 no later than July 1, 2002, is deemed to have been and shall
20 continue to be a rural hospital from that date through June
21 30, 2012, if the hospital continues to have 100 or fewer
22 licensed beds and an emergency room, or meets the criteria of
23 subparagraph 4. An acute care hospital that has not previously
24 been designated as a rural hospital and that meets the
25 criteria of this paragraph shall be granted such designation
26 upon application, including supporting documentation to the
27 Medicaid program office of the Agency for Health Care
28 Administration.

29 Section 2. Subsection (42) of section 408.07, Florida
30 Statutes, is amended to read:

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1 408.07 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, with the
2 exception of ss. 408.031-408.045, the term:

3 (42) "Rural hospital" means an acute care hospital
4 licensed under chapter 395, having 100 or fewer licensed beds
5 and an emergency room, and which is:

6 (a) The sole provider within a county with a
7 population density of no greater than 100 persons per square
8 mile;

9 (b) An acute care hospital, in a county with a
10 population density of no greater than 100 persons per square
11 mile, which is at least 30 minutes of travel time, on normally
12 traveled roads under normal traffic conditions, from another
13 acute care hospital within the same county;

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

17 (d) A hospital with a service area that has a
18 population of 100 persons or fewer per square mile. As used
19 in this paragraph, the term "service area" means the fewest
20 number of zip codes that account for 75 percent of the
21 hospital's discharges for the most recent 5-year period, based
22 on information available from the hospital inpatient discharge
23 database in the State Center for Health Statistics at the
24 Agency for Health Care Administration; or

25 (e) A hospital designated as a Critical Access
26 Hospital by the Department of Health in accordance with
27 federal regulations and state requirements.

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29 Population densities used in this subsection must be based
30 upon the most recently completed United States census. A
31 hospital that received funds under s. 409.9116 for a quarter

1 beginning no later than July 1, 2002, is deemed to have been
2 and shall continue to be a rural hospital from that date
3 through June 30, 2012, if the hospital continues to have 100
4 or fewer licensed beds and an emergency room, or meets the
5 criteria of s. 395.602(2)(e)4. An acute care hospital that has
6 not previously been designated as a rural hospital and that
7 meets the criteria of this subsection shall be granted such
8 designation upon application, including supporting
9 documentation, to the Medicaid program office of the Agency
10 for Health Care Administration.

11 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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14 SENATE SUMMARY

15 Revises the definition of the term "rural hospital."
16 Provides that certain hospitals shall be considered rural
17 hospitals through June 30, 2012. Provides that certain
other hospitals may be designated rural hospitals upon
application to the Agency for Health Care Administration.

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