An act to create the "rural county ambulance service grant fund," which shall be administered by the Mississippi development authority; to provide that the Mississippi development authority shall establish and implement a program for the purpose of making grants from the fund to counties with a population of not more than 15,000 to assist such counties in providing for ambulance service; to provide that the grant fund will consist of funds appropriated by the legislature from the health care expendable fund; and for related purposes.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Mississippi:

SECTION 1. As used in this act, the following words shall have the meanings ascribed in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:
(a) "Authority" means the Mississippi Development Authority.
(b) "Fund" means the Rural County Ambulance Service Grant Fund.
(c) "Rural county" means a county that has a population of not more than twenty thousand (20,000), according to the most recent federal decennial census.

SECTION 2. (1) There is created a special fund in the State Treasury to be designated the "rural county ambulance service grant fund," which shall be administered by the authority. The authority shall establish and implement a program for the purpose of making grants from the fund to rural counties, which shall be used to supplement existing county funds for providing for ambulance service. The fund shall consist of funds appropriated by the Legislature from the Health Care Expendable Fund established under Section 43-13-407. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the
State General Fund. Any interest earned or investment earnings on amounts in the fund shall be deposited into the fund.

(2) The authority shall have all powers necessary to implement and administer the program provided for in this section, and the authority shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation and administration of the program.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.