

By: Representative Eaton

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 953

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE RURAL COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE GRANT
2 FUND, WHICH SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT
3 AUTHORITY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND
4 IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING GRANTS FROM THE FUND
5 TO COUNTIES WITH A POPULATION OF NOT MORE THAN 17,000 AND WITHOUT
6 A COUNTY HOSPITAL, WHICH SHALL BE USED FOR CONTRACTING FOR
7 ADEQUATE AMBULANCE SERVICE IN THE COUNTY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
8 GRANT FUND WILL CONSIST OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE
9 FROM THE HEALTH CARE EXPENDABLE FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

11 **SECTION 1.** As used in this act, the following words shall
12 have the meanings ascribed in this section unless the context
13 clearly requires otherwise:

14 (a) "Department" means the Mississippi Development
15 Authority.

16 (b) "Fund" means the Rural County Ambulance Service
17 Grant Fund.

18 (c) "Rural county" means a county that has a population
19 of not more than seventeen thousand (17,000), according to the
20 most recent federal decennial census, and that does not have a
21 county-owned hospital.

22 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is created a special fund in the State
23 Treasury to be known as the Rural County Ambulance Service Grant
24 Fund, which shall be administered by the department. The
25 department shall establish and implement a program for the purpose
26 of making grants from the fund to rural counties, which shall be
27 used to supplement existing county funds for contracting for
28 adequate ambulance service in the county. The fund shall consist
29 of not less than Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00)
30 appropriated annually by the Legislature from the Health Care

31 Expendable Fund established under Section 43-13-407. Unexpended
32 amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall
33 not lapse into the State General Fund. Any interest earned or
34 investment earnings on amounts in the fund shall be deposited into
35 the fund.

36 (2) The department shall make the grants from the fund
37 available to the counties through the planning and development
38 districts. Any county that is eligible for a grant from the fund
39 shall apply for the grant through the planning and development
40 district in which the county is located. The maximum amount of
41 any one (1) grant that may be made to a county is One Hundred
42 Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

43 (3) The department shall have all powers necessary to
44 implement and administer the program provided for in this section,
45 and the department shall promulgate rules and regulations
46 necessary for the implementation and administration of the
47 program.

48 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
49 and after July 1, 2004.