

By: Representatives Mims, Miles

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 94
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH
2 INNOVATION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH OF THE STATE
3 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CENTER IS
4 TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND RESOURCES TO RURAL HOSPITALS, CRITICAL
5 ACCESS HOSPITALS, RURAL HEALTH CLINICS AND RURAL FEDERALLY
6 QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS, INCLUDING EXPERT ANALYSIS, GUIDANCE,
7 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND TELEHEALTH INVESTMENT; TO SPECIFY THE
8 MINIMUM AREAS OF SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CENTER; TO PROVIDE
9 THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES AS
10 NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CENTER, AND SHALL BE
11 AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE
12 PURPOSE OF THE CENTER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Center for Rural Health
15 Innovation is established within the Office of Rural Health of the
16 State Department of Health. The purpose of the center is to
17 provide services and resources to rural hospitals, critical access
18 hospitals, rural health clinics and rural federally qualified
19 health centers, including expert analysis, guidance, training
20 opportunities and telehealth investment. For the purposes of this
21 section, the term "rural hospital" means a licensed Mississippi
22 hospital that:



23 (a) Has fifty (50) or fewer licensed general acute,
24 nonspecialty beds; or

25 (b) Is located within the geographic boundaries of a
26 municipality that has a population of less than seven thousand
27 four hundred (7,400) people according to the 2010 U.S. Census.

28 (2) The specific areas of service to be provided by the
29 center shall be, at a minimum:

30 (a) Expert consultation, including, but not limited to,
31 detailed financial evaluation, service line assessment, contract
32 review and transitional planning;

33 (b) Telehealth innovation, including, but not limited
34 to, telehealth expert consultation and telehealth development
35 grants;

36 (c) Business development training grants, including,
37 but not limited to, billing specialist training grants and
38 administrative development grants;

39 (d) Peer support network services; and

40 (e) Any other related services as determined by the
41 State Board of Health.

42 (3) The department shall provide personnel and resources as
43 necessary to provide for the operation of the center, and shall be
44 authorized to enter into contracts as necessary to carry out the
45 purpose of the center.

46 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after July 1, 2020.

