

By: Senator(s) Blackwell, Hickman, Jordan

To: Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2372

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI HOSPITAL SUSTAINABILITY  
2 GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING AND PRESERVING ACCESS  
3 TO HOSPITAL CARE FOR ALL MISSISSIPPIANS AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
4 CHALLENGES INCURRED BY HOSPITALS AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19  
5 PANDEMIC; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ADMINISTER THE  
6 PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT THE FUNDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH  
7 HOSPITAL LICENSED BY THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI EXCEPT FOR HOSPITALS  
8 OPERATED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
9 STATE-OPERATED FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE ONLY INPATIENT AND  
10 OUTPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELIGIBILITY  
11 FOR SPECIFIC HOSPITALS AND THEIR CORRESPONDING GRANT PAYMENT  
12 AMOUNTS; TO SET THE FUND DISTRIBUTION FORMULA THE DEPARTMENT OF  
13 HEALTH SHALL USE FOR ALLOCATING REMAINING FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR  
14 THE GRANT PROGRAM; TO SET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING A  
15 GRANT PAYMENT UNDER THE ACT; TO REQUIRE EACH HOSPITAL RECEIVING  
16 FUNDS FROM THE GRANT PROGRAM TO SUBMIT A REPORT DESCRIBING ITS  
17 OVERALL PATIENT CENSUS; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO  
18 COMPILE SUCH REPORTS AND SUBMIT THE REPORTS TO THE LIEUTENANT  
19 GOVERNOR AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE BY DECEMBER 1, 2023; AND FOR  
20 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

22 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby established the Mississippi  
23 Hospital Sustainability Grant Program.

24 (2) In order to measure, improve and preserve access to  
25 Mississippi hospital care for all Mississippians and in  
26 recognition of the challenges incurred by Mississippi hospitals as  
27 a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, funds from the Mississippi



28 Hospital Sustainability Grant Program shall be distributed to each  
29 hospital licensed by the State of Mississippi except for hospitals  
30 operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and  
31 state-operated facilities that provide only inpatient and  
32 outpatient psychiatric services.

33 (3) Grant funds shall be distributed based upon the  
34 following formula:

35 (a) Each Mississippi-licensed rural hospital that has  
36 less than one hundred (100) licensed beds and that is not  
37 classified as a critical access hospital that operates an  
38 emergency department shall receive Five Hundred Thousand Dollars  
39 (\$500,000.00) to defray the costs of providing emergency  
40 department services.

41 (b) Each Mississippi-licensed rural hospital that has  
42 less than one hundred (100) licensed beds and that is classified  
43 as a critical access hospital that operates an emergency  
44 department shall receive Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars  
45 (\$350,000.00) to defray the costs of providing emergency  
46 department services.

47 (c) Each Mississippi-licensed hospital that operates an  
48 emergency department and that has greater than one hundred (100)  
49 licensed beds shall receive One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

50 (d) Each Mississippi-licensed hospital with less than  
51 one hundred (100) licensed beds with the majority of such beds  
52 being dedicated to providing freestanding long term acute care,



53 freestanding rehabilitation or freestanding psychiatric services  
54 shall receive Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00).

55 (4) In addition to the funds distributed above, any  
56 remaining funds appropriated for the purposes of this grant  
57 program shall be distributed on a pro-rata amount by dividing the  
58 remaining funds by the number of licensed beds attributable to all  
59 Mississippi licensed hospital eligible to receive funds under this  
60 program and determining a dollar amount for each bed and then  
61 multiplying that dollar amount by the licensed bed count for each  
62 hospital and distributing that amount to each respective hospital.  
63 In addition to the above, in order to receive a grant payment  
64 under this section, each hospital must submit a report describing  
65 its overall patient census, its number of licensed beds and the  
66 medical services offered to its community (e.g., labor and  
67 delivery, intensive care units, emergency department, psychiatric,  
68 chemical dependency, surgery, neurology, orthopedic, etc.).

69 (5) The grant program described herein shall be administered  
70 by the Mississippi Department of Health. In promulgating rules  
71 for this grant, the Department shall not place additional  
72 qualification requirements on hospitals other than the minimum  
73 requirements required under this act. The Department shall  
74 compile the reports provided by the hospitals receiving funds  
75 under this program and submit the report to the Lieutenant  
76 Governor and the Speaker of the House by December 1, 2023.



77           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
78 and after July 1, 2023, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2023.

