

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 273

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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, and 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.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

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.

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Eugene S. Clarke
Secretary of the Senate