

By: Representative Scott

To: Public Health and Human  
Services; Appropriations A

## HOUSE BILL NO. 465

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI TELE-EMERGENCY SERVICES  
2 GRANT PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
3 HEALTH; TO PROVIDE THAT THE GRANT PROGRAM SHALL BE USED BY THE  
4 DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING RURAL TELE-EMERGENCY  
5 SERVICES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON TELE-STROKE, TELE-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH,  
6 AND TELE-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (TELE-EMS); TO ALLOW AN  
7 ADMINISTRATIVE SET-ASIDE TO COVER COSTS OF ADMINISTRATION; TO  
8 PROVIDE THE CRITERIA THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT IN  
9 ORDER FOR AN APPLICANT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT; TO PROVIDE  
10 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED  
11 PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section, the term  
14 "tele-emergency services" means an electronic, two-way,  
15 audio/visual communication service between a central emergency  
16 health care center (tele-emergency hub) and a distant hospital  
17 emergency department (remote ED) designed to provide real-time  
18 emergency care consultation.

19 (2) There is created the Mississippi Tele-emergency Services  
20 Grant Program to be administered by the State Department of  
21 Health. The grant program shall be used by the department for the  
22 purpose of promoting rural tele-emergency services with an



23 emphasis on tele-stroke, tele-behavioral health, and  
24 tele-emergency medical services (Tele-EMS). This will be achieved  
25 by enhancing telehealth networks to deliver twenty-four-hour  
26 emergency department (ED) consultation services via telehealth to  
27 rural providers without emergency care specialists. These  
28 services may include assessment of patients upon admission to the  
29 ED, interpretation of patient symptoms and clinical tests or data,  
30 supervision of providers administering treatment or  
31 pharmaceuticals, or coordination of patient transfer from the  
32 local ED.

33 (3) The overarching goals for the Mississippi Tele-emergency  
34 Services Grant Program are to:

35 (a) Expand access to, coordinate, and improve the  
36 quality of health care services;

37 (b) Improve and expand the training of health care  
38 providers; and

39 (c) Expand and improve the quality of health  
40 information available to health care providers, and patients and  
41 their families, for decision-making.

42 (4) The department shall prescribe the terms and conditions  
43 of grants awarded under the program. Eligible grant recipients  
44 shall include rural providers with no or only limited emergency  
45 specialists. In order to receive a grant under the program,  
46 applicants must submit a grant narrative and budget to the  
47 department that satisfies the following criteria:



(a) Reflects the intended use of the grant funds;

(b) Directly identifies the proposed networks that will be used;

(c) Identifies the proposed tele-emergency hub and remote ED that will be linked;

(d) Identifies any community partners, employers, and/or virtual reality technology and services that may be used and clearly defines the role they will play; and

(e) Any other information that the office determines is necessary.

(5) The department may use a maximum of five percent (5%) of funds appropriated for the program for the administration of the program.

(6) The grant recipients shall submit an annual report to the department that contains a detailed explanation of how the funds appropriated for the program were awarded, how those grants were used by grant recipients, and how the grants support a range of tele-emergency service programs that will allow for the analysis of a significant volume of patient encounters. The department of shall submit the report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the House Public Health and Human Services Committee and the Chair of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee.

**SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

