

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:

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

49 (b) Directly identifies the proposed networks that will

50 be used;

51 (c) Identifies the proposed tele-emergency hub and

52 remote ED that will be linked;

53 (d) Identifies any community partners, employers,

54 and/or virtual reality technology and services that may be used

55 and clearly defines the role they will play; and

56 (e) Any other information that the office determines is

57 necessary.

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

