

By: Senator(s) Blackwell, Hickman, Jordan

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2372  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI HOSPITAL SUSTAINABILITY  
2 GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING, IMPROVING AND  
3 PRESERVING ACCESS TO HOSPITAL CARE SERVICES FOR ALL MISSISSIPPIANS  
4 AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE CHALLENGES INCURRED BY HOSPITALS AS A  
5 RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE  
6 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT  
7 THE FUNDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH HOSPITAL LICENSED BY THE  
8 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI EXCEPT FOR HOSPITALS OPERATED BY THE UNITED  
9 STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOSPITALS OPERATED BY  
10 THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN  
11 DISTRIBUTION FORMULAS FOR ALLOCATING THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR  
12 THE GRANT PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Mississippi  
15 Hospital Sustainability Grant Program which shall be administered  
16 by the State Department of Health.

17 (2) In order to strengthen, improve and preserve access to  
18 Mississippi hospital care services for all Mississippians and in  
19 recognition of the challenges incurred by Mississippi hospitals as  
20 a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, funds from the program shall be  
21 distributed, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to each  
22 hospital licensed by the State of Mississippi, except for  
23 hospitals operated by the United States Department of Veterans



24 Affairs and hospitals operated by the State Department of Mental  
25 Health. Licensed specialty hospitals that are recognized as such  
26 by the State Department of Health, except for those excluded under  
27 this subsection, are eligible for grants under the program.

28 (3) The department shall distribute grants to each eligible  
29 hospital based upon the following formula:

30 (a) Each hospital that has fewer than one hundred (100)  
31 licensed beds and that is not classified as a critical access  
32 hospital that operates an emergency department shall be eligible  
33 to receive Six Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$625,000.00)  
34 to defray the costs of providing emergency department services.

35 (b) Each rural hospital that has fewer than one hundred  
36 (100) licensed beds and that is classified as a critical access  
37 hospital that operates an emergency department shall be eligible  
38 to receive Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) to defray  
39 the costs of providing emergency department services.

40 (c) Each hospital that operates an emergency department  
41 and that has more than one hundred (100) licensed beds shall be  
42 eligible to receive One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

43 (d) Each hospital with fewer than two hundred (200)  
44 licensed beds with the majority of such beds being dedicated to  
45 providing specialty services such as women's health services,  
46 long-term acute care, rehabilitation or psychiatric services shall  
47 be eligible to receive Five Hundred Thousand Dollars  
48 (\$500,000.00).



49           (e) Each rural hospital with fewer than one hundred  
50 (100) licensed beds with no emergency department shall be eligible  
51 to receive Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) to defray  
52 the costs of providing access to hospital care in rural  
53 communities.

54           (f) In addition to the funds provided in paragraphs (a)  
55 through (e) of this subsection, each small rural hospital with  
56 fifty (50) beds or less which operated an emergency department  
57 shall be eligible to receive Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars  
58 (\$250,000.00) to defray the costs of providing access to hospital  
59 care in rural communities.

60           (g) In addition to the funds distributed in paragraphs  
61 (a) through (c) and (e) through (f) of this subsection, any  
62 remaining funds appropriated for the purposes of this grant  
63 program shall be distributed to hospitals receiving funds in  
64 paragraphs (a) through (c) and (e) through (f) of this subsection  
65 on a pro rata amount by dividing the total amount of the remaining  
66 funds by the number of licensed beds attributable to all licensed  
67 Mississippi hospitals except for licensed beds attributable to  
68 hospitals described in paragraph (d) of this subsection and for  
69 licensed beds attributable to hospitals operated by the United  
70 States Department of Veterans Affairs and hospitals operated by  
71 the State Department of Mental Health and determining a dollar  
72 amount for each bed, and then multiplying that dollar amount by  
73 the number of licensed beds of that hospital.



74           (4) The department shall adopt such reasonable rules as  
75 necessary for the administration of the program, but shall not  
76 place additional qualification requirements on hospitals other  
77 than the minimum requirements in this section.

78           (5) The Mississippi Hospital Association shall form a work  
79 group to review the delivery of hospital services in Mississippi  
80 and shall make recommendations regarding the changes needed to  
81 sustain access to hospital care to the Lieutenant Governor,  
82 Speaker of the House, Chairmen of the House and Senate Public  
83 Health Committees with copies to the Governor and the State Health  
84 Officer.

85           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
86 and after its passage.

