

By: Representatives Johnson, Hines, Harness,
Porter, Clark

To: Public Health and Human
Services; Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 578

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI HOSPITAL EMERGENCY GRANT
2 PROGRAM IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO
3 HOSPITALS THAT ARE HAVING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES TO ASSIST THE
4 HOSPITALS IN PROVIDING NEEDED DIRECT HEALTH CARE SERVICES; TO
5 CREATE A SPECIAL FUND TO BE KNOWN AS THE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY GRANT
6 FUND, WHICH SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND EXPENDED
7 FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING GRANTS TO HOSPITALS UNDER THE
8 PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
9 DETERMINE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EACH GRANT, AND TO SPECIFY
10 CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE GRANTS; TO REQUIRE THE
11 DEPARTMENT TO MAKE ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET
12 COMMITTEE ABOUT EACH GRANT MADE UNDER THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED
13 PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section, the following terms
16 shall have the meanings as defined in this subsection:

17 (a) "Department" means the State Department of Health;

18 and

19 (b) "Hospital" means a licensed hospital in

20 Mississippi.

21 (2) The Mississippi Hospital Emergency Grant Program is
22 established in the State Department of Health to provide grants to
23 hospitals that are having financial difficulties to assist the



24 hospitals in providing needed direct health care services for the
25 citizens of the state by:

26 (a) Maintaining or upgrading the hospital's facilities;
27 and/or

28 (b) Maintaining or increasing the current staff of the
29 hospital.

30 (3) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to
31 be known as the Hospital Emergency Grant Fund, which shall be
32 administered by the department. The fund shall consist of
33 legislative appropriations, federal funds, contributions,
34 donations, gifts and monies from any other source that are made
35 available for deposit into the fund. Monies in the fund shall be
36 expended by the department upon appropriation of the Legislature
37 for the sole purpose of providing grants to hospitals under the
38 provisions of this section. Monies remaining in the fund at the
39 end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund,
40 and any interest earned from the investment of monies in the fund
41 shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.

42 (4) The department shall determine the terms and conditions
43 of each grant, which shall be subject to the following provisions:

44 (a) To be eligible for a grant, a hospital must first
45 submit to the department a current financial audit showing that
46 the hospital is having financial difficulties;

47 (b) To qualify for a grant, a hospital must request
48 funds for one (1) or both of the purposes specified in subsection



49 (2) of this section, and a grant received by a hospital shall be
50 used only for the requested purpose or purposes;

51 (c) The amount of each grant shall be determined by the
52 department, with priority for grants of higher amounts being given
53 to hospitals having the most financial difficulties.

54 (5) The department shall monitor the performance of each
55 hospital that receives a grant under this section, and not later
56 than October 1, 2024, and each October 1 thereafter, the
57 department shall report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
58 about each grant made, including:

59 (a) The name and location of the hospital;

60 (b) The amount of the grant;

61 (c) The terms of the grant and whether the hospital is
62 currently meeting those terms; and

63 (d) How the hospital used the grant related to
64 facilities and/or staff.

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

