

By: Representative Scott

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 957

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 healthcare 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 24-hour emergency
26 department (ED) consultation services via telehealth to rural
27 providers without emergency care specialists. These services may
28 include assessment of patients upon admission to the ED,
29 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.

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

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

71 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
72 and after July 1, 2024.

