

By: Representative Scott

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 962

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 41-9-353, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
 2 1972, TO CREATE THE SPECIALTY DOCTORS TO RURAL HOSPITALS GRANT
 3 PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF SPECIALTY
 4 DOCTORS IN RURAL HOSPITALS WHEN A MAJOR HOSPITAL INDICATES TO A
 5 RURAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DOCTOR THAT THE MAJOR HOSPITAL IS ON
 6 DIVERSION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL
 7 ADMINISTER AND DISTRIBUTE GRANT FUNDS TO RURAL HOSPITALS FOR SUCH
 8 PURPOSE; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS THAT THE DEPARTMENT
 9 SHALL MAKE FOR ESTABLISHING A PAYMENT STRUCTURE; TO REQUIRE THE
 10 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO
 11 ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
 14 41-9-353, Mississippi Code of 1972:

15 41-9-353. (1) There is established the Specialty Doctors to
 16 Rural Hospitals Grant Program.

17 (2) The Specialty Doctors to Rural Hospitals Grant Program
 18 shall be administered by the State Department of Health for the
 19 purpose of ensuring the availability of specialty doctors in rural
 20 hospitals when a major hospital indicates to a rural hospital
 21 emergency doctor that the major hospital is on diversion.



22 (3) The department shall administer and distribute grant
23 funds to rural hospitals for such purpose. The department shall
24 administer the program with the intent to ensure rural hospital
25 patients have the opportunity to be treated by specialty doctors
26 when a major hospital indicates to a rural hospital emergency
27 doctor that the major hospital is on diversion.

28 (4) The department shall establish a payment structure that
29 considers the following:

30 (a) The size of the rural hospital;

31 (b) The distance of the rural hospital from a major
32 hospital;

33 (c) The health demographics of the rural hospital;

34 (d) The need for a specific type of specialty doctor in
35 a specific rural hospital.

36 (5) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to
37 accomplish the purpose of the program.

38 (6) For purposes of this section, "rural hospital" means a
39 licensed Mississippi hospital that has fifty (50) or fewer
40 licensed general acute, nonspecialty beds.

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

