



HOUSE BILL 1043: 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act, Sec. 3.3(39): Rural Hospitals Relief Fund

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	October 27, 2020
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Jason Moran-Bates Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Sec. 3.3(39) of S.L. 2020-4		

OVERVIEW: Section 3.3(39) of S.L. 2020-4 allocates \$65 million to establish the COVID-19 Rural Hospitals Relief Fund. This section became effective May 4, 2020.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 3.3(39) of S.L. 2020-4 allocates \$65 million to establish the COVID-19 Rural Hospitals Relief Fund. The funds will be allocated as grants to hospitals designated as critical access hospitals by CMS and to hospitals in Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties. The funds must be used to offset expenses incurred in providing patient care in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as follows:

- Up to 60% of lost revenues from foregone elective procedures during the emergency period, net of federal funds received from the CARES Act.
- Supplies and equipment purchased in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.
- Rapidly ramping up infection control and triage training for health care professionals.
- Retrofitting separate areas to screen and treat patients with suspected COVID-19 infections, including isolation areas in or around hospital emergency departments.
- Increasing the number of patient care beds to provide surge capacity.
- Transporting patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 safely to or from rural facilities.
- Planning, training, and implementing expanded telehealth capabilities.
- Procuring staff or consultants to help mitigate the burden of extensive review of new and incoming federal and State regulatory guidelines.
- Salary support for furloughed employees.

Critical access hospital grants must be at least \$350,000, and grants for hospitals in Tier 1 or 2 counties must be at least \$250,000. Each grant recipient must submit a detailed written report to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services by December 1, 2020, that contains a breakdown of all expenditures from the funds received under this subdivision and any Federal legislation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section became effective May 4, 2020.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director

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Legislative Analysis
Division
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