

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 368

By: Fisher of the Senate

and

Bingman, Johnson, DePue and
Duncan of the House

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3424.1, which relates to the Oklahoma Rural Health Policy and Research Center mission; expanding mission; specifying necessary criteria for certain designation request; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3424.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3424.1 A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Rural Health Policy and Research Center at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

B. 1. The mission of the Oklahoma Rural Health Policy and Research Center shall be to:

- a. improve rural health care delivery in Oklahoma through the coordination of rural medical education, telemedicine, research, and health care policy, and
- b. establish a process for the following types of hospitals to request designation as a rural health care delivery system through the Oklahoma Rural Health Policy and Research Center:
 - (1) a rural hospital located in a metropolitan statistical area, and
 - (2) a hospital located in an administrative area that is administratively designated as urban or nonrural.

2. A hospital located in a metropolitan statistical area or an area administratively designated as urban or nonrural that requests designation as a rural health care delivery system shall meet at least two of the following criteria:

- a. be located in a county with a population density of less than two hundred twenty-five (225) persons per square mile of land area,

- b. be located in a county with a municipality of twenty-five thousand (25,000) persons or fewer, excluding the major city designated as urban or nonrural, or
- c. be the only hospital located in a county.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 17th day of March, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 27th day of April, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives