

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1321

By: McCall

7
8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

9 An Act relating to emergency room services; creating
10 the Rural Emergency Room Access to Care and
11 Facilities Improvements Act; authorizing citation;
12 providing legislative findings; creating the Rural
13 Emergency Room Access to Care and Facilities
14 Improvements Revolving Fund; assigning the Fund to
15 the State Department of Health; establishing fund
16 characteristics; authorizing and limiting the
17 utilization of deposits; defining terms; authorizing
18 the awarding of grants to certain hospitals; limiting
19 amounts of awards based on provided criteria;
20 limiting grant awards to certain balance; authorizing
21 the promulgation of rules; providing for
22 noncodification; providing for codification;
23 providing an effective date; and declaring an
24 emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Rural
Emergency Room Access to Care and Facilities Improvements Act".

1 B. The Legislature hereby finds that access to reliable,
2 adequate, and available emergency room care throughout the state is
3 beneficial to the state and its citizens and must be secured.

4 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-2740 of Title 63, unless there
6 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
8 fund for the State Department of Health to be designated the "Rural
9 Emergency Room Access to Care and Facilities Improvements Revolving
10 Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal
11 year limitations, and shall consist of all monies legally directed
12 for deposit to the fund. All monies accruing to the credit of said
13 fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the
14 State Department of Health for the purpose of providing grants to
15 qualifying facilities in accordance with the provisions and
16 limitations of subsections C and D of this section. Expenditures
17 from said fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State
18 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
19 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
20 approval and payment.

21 B. As used in the Rural Emergency Room Access to Care and
22 Facilities Improvements Act:

23 1. "Qualifying facilities" means a hospital located in a county
24 with a population less than 50,000 as reported in the most recent

1 Federal Decennial Census published by the United States Census
2 Bureau; and

3 2. "Qualified emergency room physician" means a board-certified
4 emergency room physician.

5 C. From any available, unencumbered balance in the Rural
6 Emergency Room Access to Care and Facilities Improvements Revolving
7 Fund, the State Department of Health is authorized to award grants
8 to qualifying hospitals as follows:

9 1. For qualifying hospitals staffing qualified emergency room
10 physicians at least fifty percent (50%) of facility's operating
11 hours, an annual grant amount shall not exceed One Million Dollars
12 (\$1,000,000.00); and

13 2. For qualifying hospitals staffing qualified emergency room
14 physicians for less than fifty percent (50%) of facility operating
15 hours, an annual grant amount shall not exceed Five Hundred Thousand
16 Dollars (\$500,000.00).

17 D. No grant shall be awarded or paid under the provisions of
18 this act that would exceed the available, unencumbered balance of
19 the Rural Emergency Room Access to Care and Facilities Improvements
20 Act.

21 E. The State Department of Health may promulgate rules as
22 needed to implement the provisions of the Rural Emergency Room
23 Access to Care and Facilities Improvements Act.

24 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

1 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 03/02/2023 - DO PASS,
7 As Amended.

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