

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 475

Short Title: Funds for Rural Hospital Operations/Maint. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Purcell; Albertson, Atwater, Berger of Franklin, Bingham, Dannelly, Dorsett, Foriest, Hartsell, Malone, and Snow.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

March 5, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
2 HUMAN SERVICES FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE
3 TO SMALL RURAL HOSPITALS.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
7 Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health and Community
8 Care, the sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the
9 sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. These funds shall
10 be allocated to small rural hospitals in need of assistance with the operations and
11 infrastructure maintenance of the hospital. These funds may be used for:

- 12 (1) Capital and operational needs of small rural hospitals. The Office of
13 Rural Health and Community Care shall convene an advisory group to
14 establish criteria for distribution of these funds. The criteria shall
15 include the number of indigent patients served, the number of
16 Medicaid recipients served, the per capita income of the area served by
17 the hospital, and the financial needs of the hospital; and
18 (2) Pilot demonstration programs that address issues critical to the
19 long-term survivability of rural hospitals such as: development of
20 regional care networks for mental health services; restructuring of
21 emergency department and outpatient services; and disease-focused
22 regional referral and care networks. The Office of Rural Health and
23 Community Care shall convene an advisory group to establish criteria
24 for the pilot demonstration projects, distribution of funds, and
25 monitoring and evaluation of the pilot projects.

26 The Office of Rural Health and Community Care shall report on the
27 allocation of funds appropriated under this section to the Senate Appropriations
28 Committee on Health and Human Services, the House of Representatives

- 1 Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research
2 Division not later than April 1, 2008.
3 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.