

## CHAPTER 30

## (SB 118)

AN ACT relating to rural health care.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

Section 1. KRS 164.937 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) *The University of Kentucky shall maintain a Center of Excellence in Rural Health.*
- (2) *The mission of the Center of Excellence in Rural Health shall be the improvement of the health of all rural Kentuckians and the improvement of rural health care systems through education, research, and service.*
- (3) *The Center of Excellence in Rural Health shall:*
  - (a) *Support a site-based director, core faculty, and staff;*
  - (b) *Collect and maintain statistical and other information relating to rural health status, rural health care systems, rural health policy, and other issues affecting the health and well-being of rural populations;*
  - (c) *Collect, analyze, interpret, disseminate, and make recommendations regarding the availability, distribution, and sufficiency of the health professions workforce;*
  - (d) *Provide educational opportunities for students committed to rural health care:*
    1. *To obtain education in needed health professions as determined by the workforce analyses, rotating these programs as necessary;*
    2. *By testing and developing innovative models for learning; and*
    3. *By reserving funds budgeted for specific educational programs that in the future are deemed no longer necessary for use for educational programs for other health professions;*
  - (e) *Maintain site-based family practice residencies;*
  - (f) *Serve as the federally designated Office of Rural Health and perform the duties prescribed by the United States Health Resources and Services Administration;*
  - (g) *Demonstrate or provide innovative programs that improve the health of rural Kentuckians and strengthen rural health care systems; and*
  - (h) *Advocate for rural health care.*
- (4) *To the extent additional funds are appropriated, the Center of Excellence in Rural Health shall establish additional sites throughout the Commonwealth as necessary to achieve the mission of the center.* ~~The University of Kentucky shall develop a Center of Excellence for Rural Health Care to collect and maintain statistical and other information relating to health manpower needs, health care delivery research, health policy, and health problems unique to rural populations and shall:~~
  - ~~(1) Coordinate clinical rotations for health science students;~~
  - ~~(2) Maintain the rural health science library;~~
  - ~~(3) Establish a family practice residency program at a regional public medical center with decentralized clinical practice sites;~~

- ~~(4) Develop an accelerated program to enable registered nurses with associate degrees to pursue a master's degree in nursing in locations on and off affiliated college campuses;~~
- ~~(5) Coordinate the placement of emergency medicine clinical residents in rural hospitals;~~
- ~~(6) Implement the provisions of KRS 164.935;~~
- ~~(7) Maintain clinical training sites for students in the health professions;~~
- ~~(8) Establish and coordinate associate degree and bachelor degree programs for the education of physical therapists in a rural area;~~
- ~~(9) Establish and coordinate associate degree and bachelor degree programs in laboratory technology in a rural area; and~~
- ~~(10) Provide continuing education for health care professionals.]~~
- (5) *Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the study of rural health policies, workforce analyses, or the training of health professionals in or for rural or medically underserved areas by other state universities.*
- (6) The University of Kentucky shall report to the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Legislative Research Commission a detailed, audited statement of expenditures for each program function in the Center of Excellence for Rural Health Care by September 1 of each year which enumerates expenditures for the preceding fiscal year.

**Approved March 15, 2001**