

1 AN ACT relating to the rural hospital loan fund and declaring an emergency.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 154.20-190 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) As used in this section:

5 (a) "Authority" means the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority;  
6 ~~and~~

7 (b) **"Qualifying former hospital" means a hospital facility:**

8 **1. At a location that closed within thirty-six (36) months prior to an**  
9 **application for a loan; and**

10 **2. For which the former owner or new owner has obtained a certificate**  
11 **of need to open a new hospital or other health facility as defined in**  
12 **KRS 216B.015 that provides inpatient care at the closed location; and**

13 (c) "Rural hospital" means any hospital **or qualifying former hospital** located  
14 within a county of the Commonwealth having a population of less than fifty  
15 thousand (50,000) according to the most recent annual estimates of the  
16 resident population issued by the United States Census Bureau.

17 (2) (a) The rural hospital operations and facilities revolving loan fund is  
18 established for the authority to provide loans to a rural hospital.

19 (b) Any loan issued by the authority shall not exceed a twenty (20) year term and  
20 shall be utilized by the Cabinet for Economic Development to assist a rural  
21 hospital in providing needed direct health care services for the citizens of the  
22 Commonwealth by:

23 1. Maintaining or upgrading the hospital's facilities;

24 2. Maintaining or increasing the current staff of the rural hospital;~~or~~

25 **3. Reopening a qualifying former hospital; or**

26 **4.~~3.~~ Providing health care services that are not currently available to citizens.**

27 (c) **Any loan issued by the authority shall be forgivable up to twenty thousand**

1           dollars (\$20,000) for each job retained or each new, full-time job created  
2           that meets the wage minimum requirements set by the authority up to a total  
3           of fifty percent (50%) of the loan amount.

4           (d) The authority shall consider a group with multiple locations eligible under  
5           this section as if each separate location is a separate entity for purposes of  
6           determining eligibility and applicable loan limits.

- 7       (3) The Cabinet for Economic Development shall:
- 8           (a) Determine the terms and conditions of each loan, including the repayment to  
9           be deposited back in the revolving loan fund for issuance of future loans to  
10          other rural hospitals;
- 11          (b) Monitor the performance of the rural hospital; and
- 12          (c) By October 1, 2020, and by each October 1 thereafter, report to the Interim  
13          Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue information about each  
14          outstanding loan issued, including:
- 15               1. The name and location of the rural hospital;
- 16               2. The amount of principal originally loaned;
- 17               3. The terms of the loan and whether the rural hospital is currently meeting  
18               those terms; and
- 19               4. How the rural hospital used the loan related to facilities, staff, or  
20               additional services.
- 21       (4) (a) The fund created in subsection (2) of this section shall be a trust and agency  
22          account.
- 23          (b) The Cabinet for Economic Development shall administer the fund.
- 24          (c) The fund shall consist of appropriations, contributions, donations, gifts, or  
25          federal funds.
- 26          (d) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any moneys remaining in the fund at the close  
27          of the fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward into the

1           succeeding fiscal year.

2           (e) Any interest earnings of the fund shall become a part of the fund and shall not  
3           lapse.

4           (f) Moneys deposited in the fund are hereby appropriated for the sole purpose of  
5           providing loans to rural hospitals.

6           ➔Section 2. Whereas the General Assembly desires to ensure that the citizens of  
7           the Commonwealth have access to quality and reliable healthcare services, an emergency  
8           is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the  
9           Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.