

FEB 18 1998  
APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE FILE 2316  
BY WEIGEL

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to implementation of a Medicare rural hospital  
2 flexibility program and making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2316

1 Section 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of  
2 the state to the Iowa department of public health, for the  
3 fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998, and ending June 30, 1999,  
4 the following amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary,  
5 for the purpose designated:

6 For implementation of a Medicare rural hospital flexibility  
7 program:

8 ..... \$ 50,000

9 The funds appropriated shall be utilized by the department  
10 to coordinate efforts to establish a Medicare rural hospital  
11 flexibility program by developing a state rural health care  
12 plan. The plan shall provide for the creation of one or more  
13 rural health networks consisting of at least one facility  
14 designated as a critical access hospital and one hospital that  
15 furnishes acute care services. The plan shall also promote  
16 the regionalization of rural health services in the state and  
17 improve access to hospitals and other health services for  
18 rural residents.

19 In developing the state rural health care plan, the  
20 advisory committee to the center for rural health and primary  
21 care within the department shall consult with the Iowa  
22 association of hospitals and health systems and rural  
23 hospitals located throughout the state, in developing  
24 certification criteria for the designation of a facility as a  
25 critical access hospital regarded as a necessary provider of  
26 health care services to rural area residents, and coordinating  
27 the application process for qualification for Medicare rural  
28 hospital flexibility program grants pursuant to section 1820  
29 of the federal Medicare rural hospital flexibility program in  
30 42 U.S.C. § 1395.

31 The department shall submit a progress report to the  
32 general assembly regarding the development of the state rural  
33 health care plan, and coordination of the application process,  
34 by October 1, 1999.

35 EXPLANATION

1 This bill provides an appropriation of \$50,000 from the  
2 general fund of the state to the Iowa department of public  
3 health for the implementation of a Medicare rural hospital  
4 flexibility program for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
5 1998, and ending June 30, 1999. The appropriated funds shall  
6 be utilized to develop a state rural health care plan  
7 providing for the creation of one or more rural health  
8 networks consisting of at least one facility designated as a  
9 critical access hospital and one hospital that furnishes acute  
10 care services. The bill provides that the plan shall also  
11 promote the regionalization of rural health services in the  
12 state and improve access to hospitals and other health  
13 services for rural residents. The bill provides that the  
14 advisory committee to the center for rural health and primary  
15 care, the Iowa association of hospitals and health systems,  
16 and rural hospitals located throughout the state shall consult  
17 in developing certification criteria for the designation of a  
18 facility as a critical access hospital regarded as a necessary  
19 provider of health care services to rural area residents, and  
20 coordinating the application process for qualification for  
21 Medicare rural hospital flexibility program grants pursuant to  
22 section 1820 of the federal Medicare rural hospital  
23 flexibility program (42 U.S.C. § 1395). The bill additionally  
24 provides that the department shall submit a progress report to  
25 the general assembly regarding the development of the state  
26 rural health care plan, and coordination of the application  
27 process, by October 1, 1999.

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