1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to health care; amending s. 381.0405,
3 F.S.; revising the purpose and functions of the Office of
4 Rural Health in the Department of Health; requiring the
5 Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Health Care
6 Administration to appoint an advisory council to advise
7 the Office of Rural Health; providing for terms of office
8 of the members of the advisory council; authorizing per
9 diem and travel reimbursement for members of the advisory
10 council; requiring the Office of Rural Health to submit an
11 annual report to the Governor and the Legislature;
12 amending s. 381.0406, F.S.; revising legislative findings
13 and intent with respect to rural health networks;
14 redefining the term "rural health network"; establishing
15 requirements for membership in rural health networks;
16 adding functions for the rural health networks; revising
17 requirements for the governance and organization of rural
18 health networks; revising the services to be provided by
19 provider members of rural health networks; requiring
20 coordination among rural health networks and area health
21 education centers, health planning councils, and regional
22 education consortia; establishing requirements for funding
23 rural health networks; establishing performance standards
24 for rural health networks; establishing requirements for
25 the receipt of grant funding; requiring the Office of
26 Rural Health to monitor rural health networks; authorizing
27 the Department of Health to establish rules governing
28 rural health network grant programs and performance

29 standards; creating s. 381.7366, F.S.; creating the Office
30 of Minority Health within the Department of Health;
31 providing legislative intent; providing for organization
32 and duties of the office; providing for responsibilities
33 of the office and the department and coordination with
34 other agencies; amending s. 395.602, F.S.; defining the
35 term "critical access hospital"; deleting the definitions
36 of "emergency care hospital," and "essential access
37 community hospital"; revising the definition of "rural
38 primary care hospital"; amending s. 395.603, F.S.;
39 deleting a requirement that the Agency for Health Care
40 Administration adopt a rule relating to deactivation of
41 rural hospital beds under certain circumstances; requiring
42 that critical access hospitals and rural primary care
43 hospitals maintain a certain number of actively licensed
44 beds; amending s. 395.604, F.S.; removing emergency care
45 hospitals and essential access community hospitals from
46 certain licensure requirements; specifying certain special
47 conditions for rural primary care hospitals; amending s.
48 395.6061, F.S.; specifying the purposes of capital
49 improvement grants for rural hospitals; modifying the
50 conditions for receiving a grant; authorizing the
51 Department of Health to award grants for remaining funds
52 to certain rural hospitals; amending s. 409.908, F.S.;
53 revising a provision relating to the phase-in of a
54 Medicaid physician fee schedule to delete obsolete
55 language; amending ss. 408.07, 409.9116, and 1009.65,
56 F.S.; conforming cross-references; requiring the

57 Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations to
58 contract for a study of the financing options for
59 replacing or changing the use of certain rural hospitals;
60 requiring a report to the Legislature by a specified date;
61 repealing s. 395.605, F.S., relating to the licensure of
62 emergency care hospitals; providing a contingent effective
63 date.
64
65 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
66
67 Section 1. Section 381.0405, Florida Statutes, is amended
68 to read:
69 381.0405 Office of Rural Health.--
70 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.--The Department of Health shall
71 establish an Office of Rural Health, which shall assist rural
72 health care providers in improving the health status and health
73 care of rural residents of this state and help rural health care
74 providers to integrate their efforts and prepare for prepaid and
75 at-risk reimbursement. The Office of Rural Health shall
76 coordinate its activities with rural health networks established
77 under s. 381.0406, local health councils established under s.
78 408.033, the area health education center network established
79 under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 381.0402, and ~~with~~ any appropriate research
80 and policy development centers within universities that have
81 state-approved medical schools. The Office of Rural Health may
82 enter into a formal relationship with any center that designates
83 the office as an affiliate of the center.
84 (2) PURPOSE.--The Office of Rural Health shall actively

85 foster the development of service-delivery systems and
86 cooperative agreements to enhance the provision of high-quality
87 health care services in rural areas and serve as a catalyst for
88 improved health services to residents ~~citizens~~ in rural areas of
89 the state.
90 (3) GENERAL FUNCTIONS.--The office shall:
91 (a) Integrate policies related to physician workforce,
92 hospitals, public health, and state regulatory functions.
93 (b) Work with rural stakeholders in order to foster the
94 development of strategic planning that addresses ~~Propose~~
95 ~~solutions to~~ problems affecting health care delivery in rural
96 areas.
97 (c) Develop, in coordination with the rural health
98 networks, standards, guidelines, and performance objectives for
99 rural health networks.
100 (d) Foster the expansion of rural health network service
101 areas to include rural counties that are not covered by a rural
102 health network.
103 (e)~~(c)~~ Seek grant funds from foundations and the Federal
104 Government.
105 (f) Administer state grant programs for rural hospitals
106 and rural health networks.
107 (4) COORDINATION.--The office shall:
108 (a) Identify federal and state rural health programs and
109 provide information and technical assistance to rural providers
110 regarding participation in such programs.
111 (b) Act as a clearinghouse for collecting and
112 disseminating information on rural health care issues, research

113 findings on rural health care, and innovative approaches to the
114 delivery of health care in rural areas.
115 (c) Foster the creation of regional health care systems
116 that promote cooperation through cooperative agreements, rather
117 than competition.
118 (d) Coordinate the department's rural health care
119 activities, programs, and policies.
120 (e) Design initiatives and promote cooperative agreements
121 in order to improve access to primary care, prehospital
122 emergency care, inpatient acute care, and emergency medical
123 services and promote the coordination of such services in rural
124 areas.
125 (f) Assume responsibility for state coordination of ~~the~~
126 ~~Rural Hospital Transition Grant Program, the Essential Access~~
127 ~~Community Hospital Program, and other~~ federal rural hospital and
128 rural health care grant programs.
129 (5) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.--The office shall:
130 (a) Assist ~~Help~~ rural health care providers in recruiting
131 ~~obtain~~ health care practitioners by promoting the location and
132 relocation of health care practitioners in rural areas and
133 promoting policies that create incentives for practitioners to
134 serve in rural areas.
135 (b) Provide technical assistance to hospitals, community
136 and migrant health centers, and other health care providers that
137 serve residents of rural areas.
138 (c) Assist with the design of strategies to improve health
139 care workforce recruitment and placement programs.
140 (d) Provide technical assistance to rural health networks

141 in the development of their long-range development plans.
142 (e) Provide links to best practices and other technical-
143 assistance resources on its website.
144 (6) RESEARCH ~~PUBLICATIONS~~ AND SPECIAL STUDIES.--The office
145 shall:
146 (a) Conduct policy and research studies.
147 (b) Conduct health status studies of rural residents.
148 (c) Collect relevant data on rural health care issues for
149 use in program planning and ~~department~~ policy development.
150 (7) ADVISORY COUNCIL.--The Secretary of Health and the
151 Secretary of Health Care Administration shall each appoint no
152 more than five members having relevant health care operations
153 management, practice, and policy experience to an advisory
154 council to advise the office regarding its responsibilities
155 under this section and ss. 381.0406 and 395.6061. Members shall
156 be appointed for 4-year staggered terms and may be reappointed
157 to a second term of office. Members shall serve without
158 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
159 travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061. The department shall
160 provide staff and other administrative assistance reasonably
161 necessary to assist the advisory council in carrying out its
162 duties. The advisory council shall work with stakeholders to
163 develop recommendations that address barriers and identify
164 options for establishing provider networks in rural counties.
165 (8) REPORTS.--Beginning January 1, 2008, and annually
166 thereafter, the Office of Rural Health shall submit a report to
167 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
168 the House of Representatives summarizing the activities of the

169 office, including the grants obtained or administered by the
170 office and the status of rural health networks and rural
171 hospitals in the state. The report must also include
172 recommendations that address barriers and identify options for
173 establishing provider networks in rural counties.
174 (9) (7) APPROPRIATION.--The Legislature shall appropriate
175 such sums as are necessary to support the Office of Rural
176 Health.
177 Section 2. Section 381.0406, Florida Statutes, is amended
178 to read:
179 381.0406 Rural health networks.--
180 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--
181 (a) The Legislature finds that, in rural areas, access to
182 health care is limited and the quality of health care is
183 negatively affected by inadequate financing, difficulty in
184 recruiting and retaining skilled health professionals, and the
185 because of a migration of patients to urban areas for general
186 acute care and specialty services.
187 (b) The Legislature further finds that the efficient and
188 effective delivery of health care services in rural areas
189 requires:
190 1. The integration of public and private resources;
191 2. The introduction of innovative outreach methods;
192 3. The adoption of quality improvement and cost-
193 effectiveness measures;
194 4. The organization of health care providers into joint
195 contracting entities;
196 5. Establishing referral linkages;

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

197 6. The analysis of costs and services in order to prepare
198 health care providers for prepaid and at-risk financing; and
199 7. The coordination of health care providers.
200 (c) The Legislature further finds that the availability of
201 a continuum of quality health care services, including
202 preventive, primary, secondary, tertiary, and long-term care, is
203 essential to the economic and social vitality of rural
204 communities.
205 (d) The Legislature further finds that health care
206 providers in rural areas are not prepared for market changes
207 such as the introduction of managed care and capitation-
208 reimbursement methodologies into health care services.
209 (e) ~~(d)~~ The Legislature further finds that the creation of
210 rural health networks can help to alleviate these problems.
211 Rural health networks shall act in the broad public interest
212 and, to the extent possible, seek to improve the accessibility,
213 quality, and cost-effectiveness of rural health care by
214 planning, developing, coordinating, and providing ~~be structured~~
215 ~~to provide~~ a continuum of quality health care services for rural
216 residents through the cooperative efforts of rural health
217 network members and other health care providers.
218 (f) ~~(e)~~ The Legislature further finds that rural health
219 networks shall have the goal of increasing the financial
220 stability of statutory rural hospitals by linking rural hospital
221 services to other services in a continuum of health care
222 services and by increasing the utilization of statutory rural
223 hospitals whenever ~~for~~ appropriate ~~health care services whenever~~
224 ~~feasible, which shall help~~ to ~~ensure their survival and thereby~~

225 support the economy and protect the health and safety of rural
226 residents.
227 (g) ~~(f)~~ Finally, the Legislature finds that rural health
228 networks may serve as "laboratories" to determine the best way
229 of organizing rural health services and linking to out-of-area
230 services that are not available locally in order~~,~~ to move the
231 state closer to ensuring that everyone has access to health
232 care~~,~~ and to promote cost-containment ~~cost containment~~ efforts.
233 The ultimate goal of rural health networks shall be to ensure
234 that quality health care is available and efficiently delivered
235 to all persons in rural areas.
236 (2) DEFINITIONS.--
237 (a) "Rural" means an area having ~~with~~ a population density
238 of fewer ~~less~~ than 100 individuals per square mile or an area
239 defined by the most recent United States Census as rural.
240 (b) "Health care provider" means any individual, group, or
241 entity, public or private, which ~~that~~ provides health care,
242 including~~:~~ preventive health care, primary health care,
243 secondary and tertiary health care, hospital ~~in-hospital~~ health
244 care, public health care, and health promotion and education.
245 (c) "Rural health network" or "network" means a nonprofit
246 legal entity whose principal place of business is in a rural
247 area, whose members consist ~~consisting~~ of rural and urban health
248 care providers and others, and which ~~that~~ is established
249 ~~organized~~ to plan, develop, organize, and deliver health care
250 services on a cooperative basis in a rural area~~, except for some~~
251 ~~secondary and tertiary care services~~.
252 (3) NETWORK MEMBERSHIP.--

253 (a) Because each rural area is unique, with a different
254 health care provider mix, health care provider membership may
255 vary, but all networks shall include members that provide health
256 promotion and disease-prevention services, public health
257 services, comprehensive primary care, emergency medical care,
258 and acute inpatient care.
259 (b) Each county health department shall be a member of the
260 rural health network whose service area includes the county in
261 which the county health department is located. Federally
262 qualified health centers and emergency medical services
263 providers are encouraged to become members of the rural health
264 networks in the areas in which their patients reside or receive
265 services.
266 (c)~~(4)~~ Network membership shall be available to all health
267 care providers in the network service area if~~, provided that~~
268 they render care to all patients referred to them from other
269 network members;~~,~~ comply with network quality assurance, quality
270 improvement, and utilization-management ~~and risk management~~
271 requirements; and~~,~~ abide by the terms and conditions of network
272 provider agreements ~~in paragraph (11)(c), and provide services~~
273 ~~at a rate or price equal to the rate or price negotiated by the~~
274 ~~network~~.
275 (4)~~(5)~~ NETWORK SERVICE AREAS.--Network service areas are
276 ~~do~~ not required ~~need~~ to conform to local political boundaries or
277 state administrative district boundaries. The geographic area of
278 one rural health network, however, may not overlap the territory
279 of any other rural health network.
280 (5)~~(6)~~ NETWORK FUNCTIONS.--Networks shall:

281 (a) Seek to develop linkages with ~~provisions for referral~~
282 ~~to~~ tertiary inpatient care, specialty physician care, and ~~to~~
283 other services that are not available in rural service areas.
284 (b) ~~(7) Networks shall~~ Make available health promotion,
285 disease prevention, and primary care services, in order to
286 improve the health status of rural residents and to contain
287 health care costs.
288 ~~(8) Networks may have multiple points of entry, such as~~
289 ~~through private physicians, community health centers, county~~
290 ~~health departments, certified rural health clinics, hospitals,~~
291 ~~or other providers; or they may have a single point of entry.~~
292 (c) ~~(9)~~ Encourage members through training and educational
293 programs to adopt standards of care and promote the evidence-
294 based practice of medicine. Networks shall establish standard
295 protocols, coordinate and share patient records, and develop
296 patient information exchange systems in order to improve the
297 quality of and access to services.
298 (d) Develop quality-improvement programs and train network
299 members and other health care providers in the use of such
300 programs.
301 (e) Develop disease-management systems and train network
302 members and other health care providers in the use of such
303 systems.
304 (f) Promote outreach to areas that have a high need for
305 services.
306 (g) Seek to develop community care alternatives for elders
307 who would otherwise be placed in nursing homes.
308 (h) Emphasize community care alternatives for persons with

309 mental health and substance abuse disorders who are at risk of
310 being admitted to an institution.
311 (i) Develop and implement a long-range development plan
312 for an integrated system of care that is responsive to the
313 unique local health needs and the area health care services
314 market. Each rural health network long-range development plan
315 must address strategies to improve access to specialty care,
316 train health care providers to use standards of care for chronic
317 illness, develop disease-management capacity, and link to state
318 and national quality-improvement initiatives. The initial long-
319 range development plan must be submitted to the Office of Rural
320 Health for review and approval no later than July 1, 2008, and
321 thereafter the plans must be updated and submitted to the Office
322 of Rural Health every 3 years.
323 ~~(10) Networks shall develop risk management and quality~~
324 ~~assurance programs for network providers.~~
325 (6) ~~(11)~~ NETWORK GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATION.--
326 (a) Networks shall be incorporated as not-for-profit
327 corporations under chapter 617, with articles of incorporation
328 that set forth purposes consistent with this section ~~the laws of~~
329 ~~the state~~.
330 (b) Each network ~~Networks~~ shall have an independent ~~a~~
331 board of directors that derives membership from local
332 government, health care providers, businesses, consumers,
333 advocacy groups, and others. Boards of other community health
334 care entities may not serve in whole as the board of a rural
335 health network; however, some overlap of board membership with
336 other community organizations is encouraged. Network staff must

337 provide an annual orientation and strategic planning activity
338 for board members.
339 (c) Network boards of directors shall have the
340 responsibility of determining the content of health care
341 provider agreements that link network members. The written
342 agreements between the network and its health care provider
343 members must specify participation in the essential functions of
344 the network and shall specify:
345 1. Who provides what services.
346 2. The extent to which the health care provider provides
347 care to persons who lack health insurance or are otherwise
348 unable to pay for care.
349 3. The procedures for transfer of medical records.
350 4. The method used for the transportation of patients
351 between providers.
352 5. Referral and patient flow including appointments and
353 scheduling.
354 6. Payment arrangements for the transfer or referral of
355 patients.
356 (d) There shall be no liability on the part of, and no
357 cause of action of any nature shall arise against, any member of
358 a network board of directors, or its employees or agents, for
359 any lawful action taken by them in the performance of their
360 administrative powers and duties under this subsection.
361 (7) ~~(12)~~ NETWORK PROVIDER MEMBER SERVICES.--
362 (a) Networks, to the extent feasible, shall seek to
363 develop services that provide for a continuum of care for all
364 residents ~~patients~~ served by the network. Each network shall

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

365 recruit members that can provide ~~include~~ the following core
366 services: disease prevention, health promotion, comprehensive
367 primary care, emergency medical care, and acute inpatient care.
368 Each network shall seek to ensure the availability of
369 comprehensive maternity care, including prenatal, delivery, and
370 postpartum care for uncomplicated pregnancies, ~~either~~ directly,
371 by contract, or through referral agreements. Networks shall, to
372 the extent feasible, develop local services and linkages among
373 health care providers in order to ~~also~~ ensure the availability
374 of the following services: ~~within the specified timeframes,~~
375 ~~either directly, by contract, or through referral agreements:~~
376 ~~1. Services available in the home.~~
377 1.~~a.~~ Home health care.
378 2.~~b.~~ Hospice care.
379 ~~2. Services accessible within 30 minutes travel time or~~
380 ~~less.~~
381 3.~~a.~~ Emergency medical services, including advanced life
382 support, ambulance, and basic emergency room services.
383 4.~~b.~~ Primary care, including~~.~~
384 ~~c.~~ prenatal and postpartum care for uncomplicated
385 pregnancies.
386 5.~~d.~~ Community-based services for elders, such as adult
387 day care and assistance with activities of daily living.
388 6.~~e.~~ Public health services, including communicable
389 disease control, disease prevention, health education, and
390 health promotion.
391 7.~~f.~~ Outpatient mental health ~~psychiatric~~ and substance
392 abuse treatment services.

393 ~~3. Services accessible within 45 minutes travel time or~~
394 ~~less.~~
395 8.~~a.~~ Hospital acute inpatient care for persons whose
396 illnesses or medical problems are not severe.
397 9.~~b.~~ ~~Level I obstetrical care, which is~~ Labor and delivery
398 for low-risk patients.
399 10.~~c.~~ Skilled nursing services and~~,~~ long-term care,
400 including nursing home care.
401 (b) Networks shall seek to foster linkages with out-of-
402 area services to the extent feasible in order to ensure the
403 availability of:
404 1.~~d.~~ Dialysis.
405 2.~~e.~~ Osteopathic and chiropractic manipulative therapy.
406 ~~4. Services accessible within 2 hours travel time or less.~~
407 3.~~a.~~ Specialist physician care.
408 4.~~b.~~ Hospital acute inpatient care for severe illnesses
409 and medical problems.
410 5.~~c.~~ ~~Level II and III obstetrical care, which is~~ Labor and
411 delivery care for high-risk patients and neonatal intensive
412 care.
413 6.~~d.~~ Comprehensive medical rehabilitation.
414 7.~~e.~~ Inpatient mental health ~~psychiatric~~ and substance
415 abuse treatment services.
416 8.~~f.~~ Magnetic resonance imaging, lithotripter treatment,
417 oncology, advanced radiology, and other technologically advanced
418 services.
419 9.~~g.~~ Subacute care.
420 (8) COORDINATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES.--

421 (a) Area health education centers, health planning
422 councils, and regional education consortia having technological
423 expertise in continuing education shall participate in the rural
424 health networks' preparation of long-range development plans.
425 The Department of Health may require written memoranda of
426 agreement between a network and an area health education center
427 or health planning council.
428 (b) Rural health networks shall initiate activities, in
429 coordination with area health education centers, to carry out
430 the objectives of the adopted long-range development plan,
431 including continuing education for health care practitioners
432 performing functions such as disease management, continuous
433 quality improvement, telemedicine, long-distance learning, and
434 the treatment of chronic illness using standards of care. As
435 used in this section, the term "telemedicine" means the use of
436 telecommunications to deliver or expedite the delivery of health
437 care services.
438 (c) Health planning councils shall support the preparation
439 of network long-range development plans through data collection
440 and analysis in order to assess the health status of area
441 residents and the capacity of local health services.
442 (d) Regional education consortia that have the technology
443 available to assist rural health networks in establishing
444 systems for the exchange of patient information and for long-
445 distance learning are encouraged to provide technical assistance
446 upon the request of a rural health network.
447 (e) ~~(b)~~ Networks shall actively participate with area
448 health education center programs, whenever feasible, in

449 developing and implementing recruitment, training, and retention
450 programs directed at positively influencing the supply and
451 distribution of health care professionals serving in, or
452 receiving training in, network areas.
453 ~~(c) As funds become available, networks shall emphasize~~
454 ~~community care alternatives for elders who would otherwise be~~
455 ~~placed in nursing homes.~~
456 ~~(d) To promote the most efficient use of resources,~~
457 ~~networks shall emphasize disease prevention, early diagnosis and~~
458 ~~treatment of medical problems, and community care alternatives~~
459 ~~for persons with mental health and substance abuse disorders who~~
460 ~~are at risk to be institutionalized.~~
461 (f)~~(13)~~ ~~TRAUMA SERVICES.~~--In those network areas having
462 ~~which have~~ an established trauma agency approved by the
463 Department of Health, the network shall seek the participation
464 of that trauma agency ~~must be a participant in the network~~.
465 Trauma services provided within the network area must comply
466 with s. 395.405.
467 (9)~~(14)~~ NETWORK FINANCING.--
468 (a) Networks may use all sources of public and private
469 funds to support network activities. Nothing in this section
470 prohibits networks from becoming managed care providers.
471 (b) The Department of Health shall establish grant
472 programs to provide funding to support the administrative costs
473 of developing and operating rural health networks.
474 (10) NETWORK PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.--The Department of
475 Health shall develop and enforce performance standards for rural
476 health network operations grants and rural health infrastructure

477 development grants.
478 (a) Operations grant performance standards must include,
479 but are not limited to, standards that require the rural health
480 network to:
481 1. Have a qualified board of directors that meets at least
482 quarterly.
483 2. Have sufficient staff who have the qualifications and
484 experience to perform the requirements of this section, as
485 assessed by the Office of Rural Health, or a written plan to
486 obtain such staff.
487 3. Comply with the department's grant-management standards
488 in a timely and responsive manner.
489 4. Comply with the department's standards for the
490 administration of federal grant funding, including assistance to
491 rural hospitals.
492 5. Demonstrate a commitment to network activities from
493 area health care providers and other stakeholders, as described
494 in letters of support.
495 (b) Rural health infrastructure development grant
496 performance standards must include, but are not limited to,
497 standards that require the rural health network to:
498 1. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, develop a long-range
499 development plan and, after July 1, 2008, have a long-range
500 development plan that has been reviewed and approved by the
501 Office of Rural Health.
502 2. Have two or more successful network-development
503 activities, such as:
504 a. Management of a network-development or outreach grant

505 from the federal Office of Rural Health Policy;
506 b. Implementation of outreach programs to address chronic
507 disease, infant mortality, or assistance with prescription
508 medication;
509 c. Development of partnerships with community and faith-
510 based organizations to address area health problems;
511 d. Provision of direct services, such as clinics or mobile
512 units;
513 e. Operation of credentialing services for health care
514 providers or quality-assurance and quality-improvement
515 initiatives that, whenever possible, are consistent with state
516 or federal quality initiatives;
517 f. Support for the development of community health
518 centers, local community health councils, federal designation as
519 a rural critical access hospital, or comprehensive community
520 health planning initiatives; and
521 g. Development of the capacity to obtain federal, state,
522 and foundation grants.
523 (11) ~~(15)~~ NETWORK IMPLEMENTATION.--As funds become
524 available, networks shall be developed and implemented in two
525 phases.
526 (a) Phase I shall consist of a network planning and
527 development grant program. Planning grants shall be used to
528 organize networks, incorporate network boards, and develop
529 formal provider agreements as provided for in this section. The
530 Department of Health shall develop a request-for-proposal
531 process to solicit grant applications.
532 (b) Phase II shall consist of a network operations grant

533 program. As funds become available, certified networks that meet
534 performance standards shall be eligible to receive grant funds
535 to be used to help defray the costs of rural health network
536 infrastructure development, patient care, and network
537 administration. Rural health network infrastructure development
538 includes, but is not limited to: recruitment and retention of
539 primary care practitioners; enhancement of primary care services
540 through the use of mobile clinics; development of preventive
541 health care programs; linkage of urban and rural health care
542 systems; design and implementation of automated patient records,
543 outcome measurement, quality assurance, and risk management
544 systems; establishment of one-stop service delivery sites;
545 upgrading of medical technology available to network providers;
546 enhancement of emergency medical systems; enhancement of medical
547 transportation; formation of joint contracting entities composed
548 of rural physicians, rural hospitals, and other rural health
549 care providers; establishment of comprehensive disease-
550 management programs that meet Medicaid requirements;
551 establishment of regional quality-improvement programs involving
552 physicians and hospitals consistent with state and national
553 initiatives; establishment of specialty networks connecting
554 rural primary care physicians and urban specialists; development
555 of regional broadband telecommunications systems that have the
556 capacity to share patient information in a secure network,
557 telemedicine, and long-distance learning capacity; and linkage
558 between training programs for health care practitioners and the
559 delivery of health care services in rural areas ~~and development~~
560 ~~of telecommunication capabilities~~. A Phase II award may occur in

561 the same fiscal year as a Phase I award.
562 (12) ~~(16)~~ CERTIFICATION.--For the purpose of certifying
563 networks that are eligible for Phase II funding, the Department
564 of Health shall certify networks that meet the criteria
565 delineated in this section and the rules governing rural health
566 networks. The Office of Rural Health in the Department of Health
567 shall monitor rural health networks in order to ensure continued
568 compliance with established certification and performance
569 standards.
570 (13) ~~(17)~~ RULES.--The Department of Health shall establish
571 rules that govern the creation and certification of networks,
572 the provision of grant funds under Phase I and Phase II, and the
573 establishment of performance standards ~~including establishing~~
574 ~~outcome measures~~ for networks.
575 Section 3. Section 381.7366, Florida Statutes, is created
576 to read:
577 381.7366 Office of Minority Health; legislative intent;
578 duties.--
579 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature recognizes that
580 despite significant investments in health care programs certain
581 racial and ethnic populations suffer disproportionately with
582 chronic diseases when compared to the non-Hispanic white
583 population. The Legislature intends to address these disparities
584 by developing programs that target causal factors and recognize
585 the specific health care needs of racial and ethnic minorities.
586 (2) ORGANIZATION.--The Office of Minority Health is
587 established within the Department of Health. The office shall be
588 headed by a director who shall report directly to the Secretary

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589 of Health.
590 (3) DUTIES.--The office shall:
591 (a) Protect and promote the health and well-being of
592 racial and ethnic populations in the state.
593 (b) Focus on the issue of health disparities between
594 racial and ethnic minority groups and the general population.
595 (c) Coordinate the department's initiatives, programs, and
596 policies to address racial and ethnic health disparities.
597 (d) Communicate pertinent health information to affected
598 racial and ethnic populations.
599 (e) Collect and analyze data on the incidence and
600 frequency of racial and ethnic health disparities.
601 (f) Promote and encourage cultural competence education
602 and training for health care professionals.
603 (g) Serve as a clearinghouse for the collection and
604 dissemination of information and research findings relating to
605 innovative approaches to the reduction or elimination of health
606 disparities.
607 (h) Dedicate resources to increase public awareness of
608 minority health issues.
609 (i) Seek increased funding for local innovative
610 initiatives and administer grants designed to support
611 initiatives that address health disparities and that can be
612 duplicated.
613 (j) Provide staffing and support for the Closing the Gap
614 grant program advisory committee.
615 (k) Coordinate with other agencies, states, and the
616 Federal Government to reduce or eliminate health disparities.

617 (l) Collaborate with other public health care providers,
618 community and faith-based organizations, the private health care
619 system, historically black colleges and universities and other
620 minority institutions of higher education, medical schools, and
621 other health providers to establish a comprehensive and
622 inclusive approach to reducing health disparities.
623 (m) Encourage and support research in the causes of racial
624 and ethnic health disparities.
625 (n) Collaborate with health professional training programs
626 to increase the number of minority health care professionals.
627 (o) Provide an annual report to the Governor, the
628 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
629 Representatives on the activities of the office.
630 (4) RESPONSIBILITY AND COORDINATION.--The office and the
631 department shall direct and carry out the duties established
632 under this section and shall work with other state agencies to
633 accomplish these duties.
634 Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 395.602, Florida
635 Statutes, is amended to read:
636 395.602 Rural hospitals.--
637 (2) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this part:
638 (a) "Critical access hospital" means a hospital that meets
639 the definition of rural hospital in paragraph (d) and meets the
640 requirements for reimbursement by Medicare and Medicaid under 42
641 C.F.R. ss. 485.601-485.647. ~~"Emergency care hospital" means a~~
642 ~~medical facility which provides:~~
643 ~~1. Emergency medical treatment; and~~
644 ~~2. Inpatient care to ill or injured persons prior to their~~

645 ~~transportation to another hospital or provides inpatient medical~~
646 ~~care to persons needing care for a period of up to 96 hours. The~~
647 ~~96-hour limitation on inpatient care does not apply to respite,~~
648 ~~skilled nursing, hospice, or other nonacute care patients.~~
649 ~~(b) "Essential access community hospital" means any~~
650 ~~facility which:~~
651 ~~1. Has at least 100 beds;~~
652 ~~2. Is located more than 35 miles from any other essential~~
653 ~~access community hospital, rural referral center, or urban~~
654 ~~hospital meeting criteria for classification as a regional~~
655 ~~referral center;~~
656 ~~3. Is part of a network that includes rural primary care~~
657 ~~hospitals;~~
658 ~~4. Provides emergency and medical backup services to rural~~
659 ~~primary care hospitals in its rural health network;~~
660 ~~5. Extends staff privileges to rural primary care hospital~~
661 ~~physicians in its network; and~~
662 ~~6. Accepts patients transferred from rural primary care~~
663 ~~hospitals in its network.~~
664 <u>(b)</u>~~(c)~~ "Inactive rural hospital bed" means a licensed
665 acute care hospital bed, as defined in s. 395.002(14), that is
666 inactive in that it cannot be occupied by acute care inpatients.
667 <u>(c)</u>~~(d)~~ "Rural area health education center" means an area
668 health education center (AHEC), as authorized by Pub. L. No. 94-
669 484, which provides services in a county with a population
670 density of no greater than 100 persons per square mile.
671 <u>(d)</u>~~(e)~~ "Rural hospital" means an acute care hospital
672 licensed under this chapter, having 100 or fewer licensed beds

673 and an emergency room, which is:
674 1. The sole provider within a county with a population
675 density of no greater than 100 persons per square mile;
676 2. An acute care hospital, in a county with a population
677 density of no greater than 100 persons per square mile, which is
678 at least 30 minutes of travel time, on normally traveled roads
679 under normal traffic conditions, from any other acute care
680 hospital within the same county;
681 3. A hospital supported by a tax district or subdistrict
682 whose boundaries encompass a population of 100 persons or fewer
683 per square mile;
684 4. A hospital in a constitutional charter county with a
685 population of over 1 million persons that has imposed a local
686 option health service tax pursuant to law and in an area that
687 was directly impacted by a catastrophic event on August 24,
688 1992, for which the Governor of Florida declared a state of
689 emergency pursuant to chapter 125, and has 120 beds or less that
690 serves an agricultural community with an emergency room
691 utilization of no less than 20,000 visits and a Medicaid
692 inpatient utilization rate greater than 15 percent;
693 5. A hospital with a service area that has a population of
694 100 persons or fewer per square mile. As used in this
695 subparagraph, the term "service area" means the fewest number of
696 zip codes that account for 75 percent of the hospital's
697 discharges for the most recent 5-year period, based on
698 information available from the hospital inpatient discharge
699 database in the Florida Center for Health Information and Policy
700 Analysis at the Agency for Health Care Administration; or

701 6. A hospital designated as a critical access hospital, as
702 defined in s. 408.07(15).
703
704 Population densities used in this paragraph must be based upon
705 the most recently completed United States census. A hospital
706 that received funds under s. 409.9116 for a quarter beginning no
707 later than July 1, 2002, is deemed to have been and shall
708 continue to be a rural hospital from that date through June 30,
709 2012, if the hospital continues to have 100 or fewer licensed
710 beds and an emergency room, or meets the criteria of
711 subparagraph 4. An acute care hospital that has not previously
712 been designated as a rural hospital and that meets the criteria
713 of this paragraph shall be granted such designation upon
714 application, including supporting documentation to the Agency
715 for Health Care Administration.
716 (e)~~(f)~~ "Rural primary care hospital" means any facility
717 that ~~meeting the criteria in paragraph (e) or s. 395.605 which~~
718 provides:
719 1. Twenty-four-hour emergency medical care;
720 2. Temporary inpatient care for periods of 96 ~~72~~ hours or
721 less to patients requiring stabilization before discharge or
722 transfer to another hospital. The 96-hour ~~72-hour~~ limitation
723 does not apply to respite, skilled nursing, hospice, or other
724 nonacute care patients; and
725 3. Has at least ~~no more than~~ six licensed acute care
726 inpatient beds.
727 (f)~~(g)~~ "Swing-bed" means a bed which can be used
728 interchangeably as either a hospital, skilled nursing facility

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729 (SNF), or intermediate care facility (ICF) bed pursuant to 42
730 C.F.R. parts 405, 435, 440, 442, and 447.
731 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 395.603, Florida
732 Statutes, is amended to read:
733 395.603 Deactivation of general hospital beds; rural
734 hospital impact statement.--
735 (1) ~~The agency shall establish, by rule, a process by~~
736 ~~which~~ A rural hospital, as defined in s. 395.602, which ~~that~~
737 seeks licensure as a rural primary care hospital or ~~as an~~
738 ~~emergency care hospital, or~~ becomes a certified rural health
739 clinic as defined in Pub. L. No. 95-210, or becomes a primary
740 care program such as a county health department, community
741 health center, or other similar outpatient program that provides
742 preventive and curative services, may deactivate general
743 hospital beds. A critical access hospital or a rural primary
744 care hospital ~~hospitals and emergency care hospitals~~ shall
745 maintain the number of actively licensed general hospital beds
746 necessary for the facility to be certified for Medicare
747 reimbursement. Hospitals that discontinue inpatient care to
748 become rural health care clinics or primary care programs shall
749 deactivate all licensed general hospital beds. All hospitals,
750 clinics, and programs with inactive beds shall provide 24-hour
751 emergency medical care by staffing an emergency room. Providers
752 with inactive beds shall be subject to the criteria in s.
753 395.1041. The agency shall specify in rule requirements for
754 making 24-hour emergency care available. Inactive general
755 hospital beds shall be included in the acute care bed inventory,
756 maintained by the agency for certificate-of-need purposes, for

757 10 years from the date of deactivation of the beds. After 10
758 years have elapsed, inactive beds shall be excluded from the
759 inventory. The agency shall, at the request of the licensee,
760 reactivate the inactive general beds upon a showing by the
761 licensee that licensure requirements for the inactive general
762 beds are met.

763 Section 6. Section 395.604, Florida Statutes, is amended
764 to read:

765 395.604 ~~Other~~ Rural primary care hospitals ~~hospital~~
766 ~~programs~~.--

767 (1) The agency may license rural primary care hospitals
768 subject to federal approval for participation in the Medicare
769 and Medicaid programs. Rural primary care hospitals shall be
770 treated in the same manner as ~~emergency care hospitals and~~ rural
771 hospitals with respect to ss. ~~395.605(2)-(8)(a),~~
772 408.033(2)(b)3.~~,~~ and 408.038.

773 (2) ~~The agency may designate essential access community~~
774 ~~hospitals.~~

775 ~~(3)~~ The agency may adopt licensure rules for rural primary
776 care hospitals ~~and essential access community hospitals~~. Such
777 rules must conform to s. 395.1055.

778 (3) For the purpose of Medicaid swing-bed reimbursement
779 pursuant to the Medicaid program, the agency shall treat rural
780 primary care hospitals in the same manner as rural hospitals.

781 (4) For the purpose of participation in the Medical
782 Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program as defined in
783 s. 1009.65 or other loan repayment or incentive programs
784 designed to relieve medical workforce shortages, the department

785 shall treat rural primary care hospitals in the same manner as
786 rural hospitals.
787 (5) For the purpose of coordinating primary care services
788 described in s. 154.011(1)(c)10., the department shall treat
789 rural primary care hospitals in the same manner as rural
790 hospitals.
791 (6) Rural hospitals that make application under the
792 certificate-of-need program to be licensed as rural primary care
793 hospitals shall receive expedited review as defined in s.
794 408.032. Rural primary care hospitals seeking relicensure as
795 acute care general hospitals shall also receive expedited
796 review.
797 (7) Rural primary care hospitals are exempt from
798 certificate-of-need requirements for home health and hospice
799 services and for swing beds in a number that does not exceed
800 one-half of the facility's licensed beds.
801 (8) Rural primary care hospitals shall have agreements
802 with other hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health
803 agencies, and providers of diagnostic-imaging and laboratory
804 services that are not provided on site but are needed by
805 patients.
806 ~~(4) The department may seek federal recognition of~~
807 ~~emergency care hospitals authorized by s. 395.605 under the~~
808 ~~essential access community hospital program authorized by the~~
809 ~~Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989.~~
810 Section 7. Section 395.6061, Florida Statutes, is amended
811 to read:
812 395.6061 Rural hospital capital improvement.--There is

813 established a rural hospital capital improvement grant program.
814 (1) A rural hospital as defined in s. 395.602 may apply to
815 the department for a grant to acquire, repair, improve, or
816 upgrade systems, facilities, or equipment. The grant application
817 must provide information that includes:
818 (a) A statement indicating the problem the rural hospital
819 proposes to solve with the grant funds;
820 (b) The strategy proposed to resolve the problem;
821 (c) The organizational structure, financial system, and
822 facilities that are essential to the proposed solution;
823 (d) The projected longevity of the proposed solution after
824 the grant funds are expended;
825 (e) Evidence of participation in a rural health network as
826 defined in s. 381.0406 and evidence that, after July 1, 2008,
827 the application is consistent with the rural health network's
828 long-range development plan;
829 (f) Evidence that the rural hospital has difficulty in
830 obtaining funding or that funds available for the proposed
831 solution are inadequate;
832 (g) Evidence that the grant funds will assist in
833 maintaining or returning the hospital to an economically stable
834 condition or that any plan for closure of the hospital or
835 realignment of services will involve development of innovative
836 alternatives for the provision of needed ~~discontinued~~ services;
837 (h) Evidence of a satisfactory record-keeping system to
838 account for grant fund expenditures within the rural county; and
839 (i) ~~A rural health network plan that includes a~~
840 ~~description of how the plan was developed, the goals of the~~

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841 ~~plan, the links with existing health care providers under the~~
842 ~~plan,~~ Indicators quantifying the hospital's financial status
843 ~~well-being~~, measurable outcome targets, and the current physical
844 and operational condition of the hospital.
845 (2) Each rural hospital as defined in s. 395.602 shall
846 receive a minimum of $200,000 ~~$100,000~~ annually, subject to
847 legislative appropriation, upon application to the Department of
848 Health, for projects to acquire, repair, improve, or upgrade
849 systems, facilities, or equipment.
850 (3) Any remaining funds may ~~shall~~ annually be disbursed to
851 rural hospitals in accordance with this section. The Department
852 of Health shall establish, by rule, criteria for awarding grants
853 for any remaining funds, which must be used exclusively for the
854 support and assistance of rural hospitals as defined in s.
855 395.602, including criteria relating to the level of charity
856 ~~uncompensated~~ care rendered by the hospital, the financial
857 stability of the hospital, financial and quality indicators for
858 the hospital, whether the project is sustainable beyond the
859 funding period, the hospital's ability to improve or expand
860 services, the hospital's participation in a rural health network
861 as defined in s. 381.0406, and the proposed use of the grant by
862 the rural hospital to resolve a specific problem. The department
863 must consider any information submitted in an application for
864 the grants in accordance with subsection (1) in determining
865 eligibility for and the amount of the grant~~, and none of the~~
866 ~~individual items of information by itself may be used to deny~~
867 ~~grant eligibility~~.
868 (4) The department shall ensure that the funds are used

869 solely for the purposes specified in this section. The total
870 grants awarded pursuant to this section shall not exceed the
871 amount appropriated for this program.
872 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (12) of section
873 409.908, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
874 409.908 Reimbursement of Medicaid providers.--Subject to
875 specific appropriations, the agency shall reimburse Medicaid
876 providers, in accordance with state and federal law, according
877 to methodologies set forth in the rules of the agency and in
878 policy manuals and handbooks incorporated by reference therein.
879 These methodologies may include fee schedules, reimbursement
880 methods based on cost reporting, negotiated fees, competitive
881 bidding pursuant to s. 287.057, and other mechanisms the agency
882 considers efficient and effective for purchasing services or
883 goods on behalf of recipients. If a provider is reimbursed based
884 on cost reporting and submits a cost report late and that cost
885 report would have been used to set a lower reimbursement rate
886 for a rate semester, then the provider's rate for that semester
887 shall be retroactively calculated using the new cost report, and
888 full payment at the recalculated rate shall be effected
889 retroactively. Medicare-granted extensions for filing cost
890 reports, if applicable, shall also apply to Medicaid cost
891 reports. Payment for Medicaid compensable services made on
892 behalf of Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the
893 availability of moneys and any limitations or directions
894 provided for in the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.
895 Further, nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent
896 or limit the agency from adjusting fees, reimbursement rates,

897 lengths of stay, number of visits, or number of services, or
898 making any other adjustments necessary to comply with the
899 availability of moneys and any limitations or directions
900 provided for in the General Appropriations Act, provided the
901 adjustment is consistent with legislative intent.
902 (12)
903 (b) The agency shall adopt a fee schedule, subject to any
904 limitations or directions provided for in the General
905 Appropriations Act, based on a resource-based relative value
906 scale for pricing Medicaid physician services. Under this fee
907 schedule, physicians shall be paid a dollar amount for each
908 service based on the average resources required to provide the
909 service, including, but not limited to, estimates of average
910 physician time and effort, practice expense, and the costs of
911 professional liability insurance. The fee schedule shall provide
912 increased reimbursement for preventive and primary care services
913 and lowered reimbursement for specialty services by using at
914 least two conversion factors, one for cognitive services and
915 another for procedural services. The fee schedule shall not
916 increase total Medicaid physician expenditures unless moneys are
917 available~~, and shall be phased in over a 2-year period beginning~~
918 ~~on July 1, 1994~~. The Agency for Health Care Administration shall
919 seek the advice of a 16-member advisory panel in formulating and
920 adopting the fee schedule. The panel shall consist of Medicaid
921 physicians licensed under chapters 458 and 459 and shall be
922 composed of 50 percent primary care physicians and 50 percent
923 specialty care physicians.
924 Section 9. Subsection (43) of section 408.07, Florida

925 Statutes, is amended to read:
926 408.07 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, with the
927 exception of ss. 408.031-408.045, the term:
928 (43) "Rural hospital" means an acute care hospital
929 licensed under chapter 395, having 100 or fewer licensed beds
930 and an emergency room, and which is:
931 (a) The sole provider within a county with a population
932 density of no greater than 100 persons per square mile;
933 (b) An acute care hospital, in a county with a population
934 density of no greater than 100 persons per square mile, which is
935 at least 30 minutes of travel time, on normally traveled roads
936 under normal traffic conditions, from another acute care
937 hospital within the same county;
938 (c) A hospital supported by a tax district or subdistrict
939 whose boundaries encompass a population of 100 persons or fewer
940 per square mile;
941 (d) A hospital with a service area that has a population
942 of 100 persons or fewer per square mile. As used in this
943 paragraph, the term "service area" means the fewest number of
944 zip codes that account for 75 percent of the hospital's
945 discharges for the most recent 5-year period, based on
946 information available from the hospital inpatient discharge
947 database in the Florida Center for Health Information and Policy
948 Analysis at the Agency for Health Care Administration; or
949 (e) A critical access hospital.
950
951 Population densities used in this subsection must be based upon
952 the most recently completed United States census. A hospital

953 that received funds under s. 409.9116 for a quarter beginning no
954 later than July 1, 2002, is deemed to have been and shall
955 continue to be a rural hospital from that date through June 30,
956 2012, if the hospital continues to have 100 or fewer licensed
957 beds and an emergency room, or meets the criteria of s.
958 395.602(2)(d)4. ~~s. 395.602(2)(e)4.~~ An acute care hospital that
959 has not previously been designated as a rural hospital and that
960 meets the criteria of this subsection shall be granted such
961 designation upon application, including supporting
962 documentation, to the Agency for Health Care Administration.
963 Section 10. Subsection (6) of section 409.9116, Florida
964 Statutes, is amended to read:
965 409.9116 Disproportionate share/financial assistance
966 program for rural hospitals.--In addition to the payments made
967 under s. 409.911, the Agency for Health Care Administration
968 shall administer a federally matched disproportionate share
969 program and a state-funded financial assistance program for
970 statutory rural hospitals. The agency shall make
971 disproportionate share payments to statutory rural hospitals
972 that qualify for such payments and financial assistance payments
973 to statutory rural hospitals that do not qualify for
974 disproportionate share payments. The disproportionate share
975 program payments shall be limited by and conform with federal
976 requirements. Funds shall be distributed quarterly in each
977 fiscal year for which an appropriation is made. Notwithstanding
978 the provisions of s. 409.915, counties are exempt from
979 contributing toward the cost of this special reimbursement for
980 hospitals serving a disproportionate share of low-income

981 patients.
982 (6) This section applies only to hospitals that were
983 defined as statutory rural hospitals, or their successor-in-
984 interest hospital, prior to January 1, 2001. Any additional
985 hospital that is defined as a statutory rural hospital, or its
986 successor-in-interest hospital, on or after January 1, 2001, is
987 not eligible for programs under this section unless additional
988 funds are appropriated each fiscal year specifically to the
989 rural hospital disproportionate share and financial assistance
990 programs in an amount necessary to prevent any hospital, or its
991 successor-in-interest hospital, eligible for the programs prior
992 to January 1, 2001, from incurring a reduction in payments
993 because of the eligibility of an additional hospital to
994 participate in the programs. A hospital, or its successor-in-
995 interest hospital, which received funds pursuant to this section
996 before January 1, 2001, and which qualifies under s.
997 395.602(2)(d) ~~s. 395.602(2)(e)~~, shall be included in the
998 programs under this section and is not required to seek
999 additional appropriations under this subsection.
1000 Section 11. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
1001 1009.65, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1002 1009.65 Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment
1003 Program.--
1004 (2) From the funds available, the Department of Health
1005 shall make payments to selected medical professionals as
1006 follows:
1007 (b) All payments shall be contingent on continued proof of
1008 primary care practice in an area defined in s. 395.602(2)(d) ~~s.~~

1009 ~~395.602(2)(e)~~, or an underserved area designated by the
1010 Department of Health, provided the practitioner accepts Medicaid
1011 reimbursement if eligible for such reimbursement. Correctional
1012 facilities, state hospitals, and other state institutions that
1013 employ medical personnel shall be designated by the Department
1014 of Health as underserved locations. Locations with high
1015 incidences of infant mortality, high morbidity, or low Medicaid
1016 participation by health care professionals may be designated as
1017 underserved.
1018 Section 12. The Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental
1019 Relations shall study the financing options for replacing or
1020 changing the use of rural hospital facilities having 55 or fewer
1021 beds which were built before 1985 and which have not had major
1022 renovations since 1985. For each such hospital, the Legislative
1023 Committee on Intergovernmental Relations staff shall assess the
1024 need to replace or convert the facility, identify all available
1025 sources of financing for such replacement or conversion and
1026 assess each community's capacity to maximize these funding
1027 options, propose a model replacement facility if a facility
1028 should be replaced, and propose alternative uses of the facility
1029 if continued operation of the hospital is not financially
1030 feasible. Based on the results of the contract study, the
1031 Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations shall
1032 submit recommendations to the Legislature by February 1, 2008,
1033 regarding whether the state should provide financial assistance
1034 to replace or convert these rural hospital facilities and what
1035 form that assistance should take.
1036 Section 13. Section 395.605, Florida Statutes, is

1037 repealed.

1038 Section 14. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, only
1039 if specific appropriations are made in the General
1040 Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007-2008 to the Department
1041 of Health to fund rural health network infrastructure
1042 implementation and the rural hospital capital improvement grant
1043 program.