

1 SB351
2 191531-2
3 By Senator Reed
4 RFD: Health and Human Services
5 First Read: 27-FEB-18

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Alabama Rural
9 Hospital Resource Center, within the University of
10 Alabama at Birmingham, to facilitate access to high
11 quality care and improve the health of rural
12 Alabamians by increasing the viability and
13 capabilities of eligible hospitals at no or minimal
14 cost to those hospitals.

15
16 A BILL
17 TO BE ENTITLED
18 AN ACT

19
20 Relating to health care; to create the Alabama Rural
21 Hospital Resource Center, within the University of Alabama at
22 Birmingham; to provide staffing and reporting requirements for
23 the resource center; to create a rural administrative
24 residency program; and to establish the areas in which the
25 resource center may support participating rural hospitals.
26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. (a) The University of Alabama at
2 Birmingham shall establish the Alabama Rural Hospital Resource
3 Center.

4 (b) The purpose of the resource center is to
5 facilitate access to high quality care for rural Alabamians
6 and improve their health by increasing the viability and
7 capabilities of eligible hospitals at no or minimal cost to
8 those hospitals.

9 (c) For the purposes of this section, the following
10 terms shall have the following meanings:

11 (1) ELIGIBLE HOSPITAL. A nonprofit or public rural
12 hospital.

13 (2) RESOURCE CENTER. The Rural Hospital Resource
14 Center of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

15 (3) RURAL. Located in one of the following:

16 a. An area designated as a shortage area as defined
17 in 42 C.F.R. § 491.5(c) and (d); or

18 b. A rural area as defined by the Federal Office of
19 Rural Health Policy.

20 (d) The resource center shall do all of the
21 following:

22 (1) Hire necessary staff.

23 (2) Act as a resource for the Alabama Rural Hospital
24 Global Budget Board, which includes providing technical
25 assistance and assisting in the development of global
26 payments.

1 (3) Annually submit a report to the Legislature,
2 State Finance Director, and Medicaid Commissioner regarding
3 the effectiveness of the resource center. The report shall
4 include all of the following:

5 a. The financial improvement of participating
6 hospitals.

7 b. Satisfaction survey results from the management
8 team and board of directors of each participating hospital.

9 c. Improvements in the quality of participating
10 hospitals.

11 d. Improvements in access to care.

12 e. Improvements in health status.

13 (4) Establish a rural administrative residency
14 program by working with the Graduate Program in Health
15 Administration of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and
16 pursuing funding for administrative residents who wish to work
17 in rural health care.

18 (e) The resource center may provide support to
19 participating eligible hospitals in all of the following
20 areas, with priority being given to hospitals participating in
21 the global budget model:

22 (1) Compliance.

23 (2) Coding.

24 (3) Purchasing and supply chain.

25 (4) Quality.

26 (5) Strategic planning.

27 (6) Provider recruitment.

1 (7) Cost report.

2 (8) Insurance.

3 (9) Any other area that furthers the purpose of the
4 resource center.

5 Section 2. This act shall become effective
6 immediately following its passage and approval by the
7 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.