

Introduced: 2/16/82  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services and Finance

BY HAUGEN, CATO, FULLER  
AND MALONE

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 844

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the financing of rural health  
7 facility improvements and maintenance.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 \* Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. The legislature finds and declares  
10 that rural health facilities constitute an integral part of the health ser-  
11 vices of the state. The purpose of this Act is to assist those rural health  
12 facilities that are unable to secure reasonable alternative means of financ-  
13 ing to secure the capital necessary to improve and maintain their physical  
14 plants so that those health facilities can continue to provide quality health  
15 care.

16 \* Sec. 2. AS 18.25 is amended by adding new sections to read:

17 ARTICLE 5. FINANCING OF RURAL HEALTH FACILITY  
18 IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE.

19 Sec. 18.25.130. RURAL HEALTH FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE  
20 FUND. There is created a rural health facility improvements and mainte-  
21 nance fund in the Department of Health and Social Services. Money  
22 appropriated to the fund shall be used for grants to rural health facil-  
23 ities in accordance with AS 18.25.140.

24 Sec. 18.25.140. GRANTS TO RURAL HEALTH FACILITIES FOR IMPROVEMENTS  
25 AND MAINTENANCE. (a) By November 1 of each year the Statewide Health  
26 Coordinating Council (AS 18.07.011) shall recommend priorities for  
27 making grants from the rural health facility improvements and maintenance  
28 fund. The recommendations shall be transmitted to the commissioner of  
29 health and social services, the governor, and the legislature.

1 (b) The Department of Health and Social Services shall provide the  
2 Statewide Health Coordinating Council with an inventory of rural health  
3 facilities and other appropriate information that would be helpful to  
4 the council in recommending priorities for making grants. The Department  
5 of Health and Social Services shall annually update the inventory pro-  
6 vided to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

7 (c) In developing recommendations for making grants under this  
8 section, the Statewide Health Coordinating Council shall consider

9 (1) the condition of the existing physical plant of a rural  
10 health facility;

11 (2) the ability of the rural health facility to continue to  
12 provide quality health services;

13 (3) the need in the community for additional services; and

14 (4) the ability of the rural health facility to meet current  
15 licensure standards.

16 (d) The commissioner of health and social services shall review  
17 the recommendations of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council and  
18 shall make grants from the fund established under AS 18.25.130 to rural  
19 health facilities for physical plant improvements and maintenance. Each  
20 grant shall be sufficient to totally satisfy the financing requirements  
21 of the physical plant improvement or maintenance recommended by the  
22 council. The commissioner may not make grants in an order other than  
23 that proposed by the council unless the commissioner

24 (1) makes written findings of fact to justify the modifica-  
25 tion of the priorities recommended by the council;

26 (2) provides the council with a copy of the written findings;  
27 and

28 (3) allows the council a reasonable length of time to respond  
29 to the written findings.