

Original sponsors: Haugen, Cato,
Fuller, et al

Offered: 3/31/82
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 844 (HESS) am

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

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For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the financing of rural health

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facility improvements and maintenance."

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

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* 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.

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

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ARTICLE 5. FINANCING OF RURAL HEALTH FACILITY

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IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE.

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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.

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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;

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

16 (5) other related data that would assist the council in
17 establishing grant priorities.

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

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

28 (2) provides the council with a copy of the written findings;
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(3) allows the council a reasonable length of time to respond to the written findings.

Sec. 18.25.150. APPROPRIATION GUIDELINES. Proposed appropriations for the rural health facility improvements and maintenance fund in the governor's annual budget submitted under AS 37.07 should include

- (1) an itemized listing of projects proposed to be financed;
- (2) the amount proposed to be granted to each facility from the fund; and
- (3) the estimated cost of each proposed project.

* Sec. 3. AS 18.25.120 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(2) "rural health facility" means a nonprofit or publicly owned health facility located in an organized borough with a population less than 45,000 or in the unorganized borough.