
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

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INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, BOBACK, EVERETT, FRITZ, HELM, IRVIN,
KAUFER, OBERLANDER, PYLE, RYAN AND STRUZZI, JANUARY 28, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 28, 2019

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center
2 Authority; providing for its powers and duties; and
3 establishing the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center
4 Fund.

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8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 CHAPTER 1

11 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

12 Section 101. Short title.

13 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
14 Rural Health Redesign Center Authority Act.

15 Section 102. Purpose.

16 It is the purpose of this act to protect and promote access
17 by the residents of this Commonwealth to high-quality health
18 care in rural communities by encouraging innovation in health
19 care delivery.

20 Section 103. Definitions.

21 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
22 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
23 context clearly indicates otherwise:

24 "Acute care hospital." A facility that provides inpatient
25 and outpatient services, which may include an emergency
26 department or intensive care unit.

27 "Authority." The Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center
28 Authority established in section 302.

29 "Board." The governing body of the authority.

30 "Conflict of interest." A situation in which a board member:

1 (1) has a financial interest in one or more parties
2 involved in an action under section 303; and

3 (2) may have access to competitively sensitive or
4 strategically relevant information about a participating
5 payer or participant rural hospital.

6 "Critical access hospital." As defined in section 1861(mm)
7 (1) of the Social Security Act (49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. §
8 1395x(mm) (1)).

9 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

10 "Eligible hospital services." All inpatient and hospital-
11 based outpatient items and services. The term shall exclude all
12 other items and services, including the following:

13 (1) Postacute care.

14 (2) Professional services.

15 (3) Durable medical equipment.

16 (4) Dental services.

17 (5) Noninpatient or non-hospital-based outpatient
18 behavioral health services.

19 (6) Long-term care services, except for swing bed
20 services for critical access hospitals.

21 "Fund." The Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Fund
22 established in section 901.

23 "Global budget." The prospectively set annual budget that is
24 the basis for payment for each participant rural hospital for
25 eligible hospital services by participating payers.

26 "Global budget model." An innovative payment and service
27 delivery model that is intended to reduce health care costs
28 while maintaining access to care, improving the quality of care
29 in rural counties and meeting the health needs of participant
30 rural hospitals' local communities, and under which

1 participating payers pay participant rural hospitals using a
2 global budget methodology established by the authority.

3 "Government program." A health benefit plan offered or
4 administered by or on behalf of the United States or the
5 Commonwealth or an agency or instrumentality of either of them,
6 including:

7 (1) The medical assistance program established under the
8 act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human
9 Services Code.

10 (2) The children's health insurance program established
11 under Article XXIII-A of the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682,
12 No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921.

13 (3) A health benefit plan offered or administered by or
14 on behalf of the Commonwealth or an agency or instrumentality
15 of the Commonwealth.

16 (4) Health care benefits administered under 10 U.S.C.
17 (relating to armed forces) or 38 U.S.C. (relating to
18 veterans' benefits).

19 (5) The Medicare program established under Title XVIII
20 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1395 et seq.).

21 "Insurer." A person, corporation or other entity licensed by
22 the Commonwealth with authority to offer, issue or renew an
23 insurance policy, subscriber contract or certificate providing
24 health care coverage, including:

25 (1) An insurance company, association or exchange
26 governed by The Insurance Company Law of 1921, including
27 section 630 and Article XXIV of The Insurance Company Law of
28 1921.

29 (2) A hospital plan corporation as defined in 40 Pa.C.S.
30 Ch. 61 (relating to hospital plan corporations).

1 (3) A professional health service corporation as defined
2 in 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to professional health
3 services plan corporations).

4 (4) A health maintenance organization governed by the
5 act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1701, No.364), known as the
6 Health Maintenance Organization Act.

7 "Medicaid managed care organization." An entity as defined
8 in section 1903(m)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §
9 1396b(m)(1)(A)) that is a party to an agreement with the
10 Department of Human Services, including a county Medicaid
11 managed care organization and a permitted assignee of an
12 agreement. The term does not include an assignor of an
13 agreement.

14 "Participant rural hospital." A rural hospital that has been
15 selected and signs an agreement to participate in the global
16 budget model.

17 "Participating payer." A payer that operates in rural
18 counties and, with respect to one or more specified products,
19 programs or payment arrangements, signs an agreement with the
20 authority to participate in the global budget model.

21 "Payer." An insurer, government program or Medicaid managed
22 care organization that pays or administers payment for health
23 care services under an insurance policy, subscriber contract,
24 certificate, administrative services arrangement or other
25 payment arrangement.

26 "Rural county." A county within this Commonwealth where the
27 population density is less than 284 persons per square mile as
28 defined by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, established in
29 section 301 of the act of June 30, 1987 (P.L.163, No.16), known
30 as the Rural Pennsylvania Revitalization Act.

1 "Rural hospital." An acute care hospital or critical access
2 hospital located in a rural county.

3 "Rural hospital transformation plan." A description of the
4 health care delivery system transformation that a participant
5 rural hospital will undergo under the global budget model.

6 "Secretary." The Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth.

7 "Swing bed." A hospital bed that has been approved by the
8 Medicare program established under Title XVIII of the Social
9 Security Act to be used to provide posthospital skilled nursing
10 facility care when the rural hospital participates in the
11 Medicare program.

12 CHAPTER 3

13 PENNSYLVANIA RURAL HEALTH REDESIGN CENTER AUTHORITY

14 Section 301. Scope of chapter.

15 This chapter relates to the Pennsylvania Rural Health
16 Redesign Center Authority.

17 Section 302. Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center
18 Authority.

19 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign
20 Center Authority is established as a body corporate and politic
21 constituting a public corporation and government
22 instrumentality. The powers and duties of the authority shall be
23 vested in and exercised by the board, which shall have the sole
24 power to employ staff, including an executive director, legal
25 counsel, consultants or any other staff deemed necessary by the
26 board to effectuate the purposes of this act. Individuals
27 employed by the board shall not be employees of the Commonwealth
28 for any purpose, including for purposes of compensation, pension
29 benefits or retirement.

30 (b) Composition.--The board shall consist of the following

1 members:

2 (1) The secretary or a designee, who shall be an
3 employee of the department designated in writing prior to
4 service.

5 (2) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee, who
6 shall be an employee of the Department of Human Services
7 designated in writing prior to service.

8 (3) The Insurance Commissioner or a designee, who shall
9 be an employee of the Insurance Department designated in
10 writing prior to service.

11 (4) One member selected collectively by each
12 participating payer that is an insurer, together with its
13 parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, other associated entities
14 and the successors of any of them, but excluding any
15 affiliated, subsidiary or otherwise associated Medicaid
16 managed care organizations.

17 (5) One member selected by each participating payer that
18 is a Medicaid managed care organization.

19 (6) One member selected by the organization representing
20 hospitals and health systems in this Commonwealth. This
21 member shall be considered a participant rural hospital
22 member on the board.

23 (7) Participant rural hospital members, the number of
24 which shall not exceed the number of participating payer
25 members. The participant rural hospital members shall
26 represent the participant rural hospitals and shall be
27 selected from different participant rural hospitals, and
28 appointed as follows:

29 (i) The President pro tempore of the Senate, the
30 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House

1 of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House
2 of the Representatives shall each appoint one member.

3 (ii) The Governor shall appoint the remaining
4 members.

5 (8) Two members who are nationally recognized experts in
6 developing and administering global budgets who shall be
7 appointed by the Governor.

8 (c) Terms.--The terms of the members of the board shall be
9 as follows:

10 (1) The terms of the members specified under subsection
11 (b) (1), (2) and (3) shall be concurrent with their holding of
12 public office.

13 (2) The board members specified in subsection (b) (4),
14 (5), (6), (7) and (8) shall serve for a term of four years
15 and shall not be eligible to serve more than two full
16 consecutive four-year terms. If a member leaves the board
17 prior to completing a four-year term due to change in
18 professional status, including, but not limited to,
19 retirement, changing jobs or similar reasons, a new member
20 shall be appointed or selected within 60 days of the seat
21 becoming vacant.

22 (d) Quorum.--A majority of the appointed members of the
23 board shall constitute a quorum. Action may be taken by the
24 board at a meeting upon a vote of a quorum of its members
25 present in person or through electronic means. If a tie vote
26 occurs at any meeting, it shall be the duty of the chairperson
27 of the board to cast the deciding vote.

28 (e) Meetings.--The board shall meet at the call of the
29 chairperson or as may be provided in the bylaws of the board.
30 The board shall hold meetings at least quarterly, which shall be

1 subject to the requirements of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to
2 open meetings).

3 (f) Chairperson.--The Governor shall appoint a chairperson
4 from among the board members.

5 (g) Formation.--The board shall be formed within 90 days of
6 the effective date of this section.

7 (h) Conflict of interest.--Board members shall recuse
8 themselves from discussions and actions where a conflict of
9 interest may occur. Board members may not receive confidential
10 information, data or material related to an entity where a
11 conflict of interest may occur.

12 Section 303. Powers and duties.

13 (a) General rule.--The board shall exercise all powers
14 necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties, including the
15 following:

16 (1) Adopt bylaws necessary to carry out the provisions
17 of this act. The bylaws must include a provision addressing
18 conflict of interest as well as a provision that restricts
19 board discussions and decisions to the administration of the
20 global budget model as provided under subsection (b).

21 (2) Make, execute and deliver contracts, grants and
22 other instruments necessary or convenient to exercise the
23 powers and duties of the board.

24 (3) Apply for, solicit, receive, establish priorities
25 for, allocate, disburse, contract or grant for, administer
26 and expend money in the fund and other money made available
27 to the authority from any other source consistent with the
28 purpose of this act. The authority shall be exempt from the
29 provisions of 62 Pa.C.S. Pts. I (relating to Commonwealth
30 Procurement Code) and II (relating to general procurement

1 provisions).

2 (4) Apply for, accept and administer grants and loans to
3 carry out the purposes of the authority.

4 (5) Accept money from both public and private sources,
5 consistent with Federal and State law.

6 (6) Take, hold, administer, assign, lend, encumber,
7 mortgage, invest or otherwise dispose of, at public or
8 private sale, on behalf of the authority and for any of the
9 authority's purposes, real property, personal property and
10 money or any interest therein, including any mortgage or loan
11 interest owned by the authority or under its control or in
12 its possession and the income therefrom either absolutely or
13 in trust. The following apply:

14 (i) The board may acquire property or money for such
15 purpose by purchase or lease and by the acceptance of
16 gifts, grants, bequests, devises or loans, but no
17 obligation of the authority shall be a debt of the
18 Commonwealth, and the authority shall have no power to
19 pledge the credit or taxing power of the Commonwealth nor
20 to make its debts payable out of any money except those
21 of the corporation.

22 (ii) All accrued and future earnings from money
23 invested by the board and such other accrued and future
24 nonappropriated funds, including, but not limited to,
25 those funds obtained from the Federal Government and
26 contributions, shall be available to the authority and
27 shall be deposited in the State Treasury and may be
28 utilized at the discretion of the board for carrying out
29 any of the corporate purposes of the authority. Any
30 placement of the funds by the State Treasurer in

1 depositories or investments shall be consistent with
2 guidelines approved by the board. For the purpose of
3 administration, the authority shall be subject to
4 sections 610, 613 and 614 of act of April 9, 1929
5 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of
6 1929.

7 (7) Seek waivers from State agency requirements as
8 necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

9 (8) Coordinate with the appropriate State agency to seek
10 waivers from Federal requirements as necessary to carry out
11 the purposes of this act.

12 (9) Establish advisory groups with a diverse membership
13 representing interested and affected groups and individuals
14 as the board finds necessary to carry out the purposes of
15 this act.

16 (10) Collaborate with all applicable State agencies for
17 purposes of implementing this act.

18 (11) Perform all other activities necessary to further
19 the purposes of this act.

20 (b) Global budget model.--The board shall administer the
21 global budget model and shall:

22 (1) Evaluate and select rural hospitals for
23 participation in the global budget model as a participant
24 rural health hospital on the basis of diversity, vision and
25 commitment to health care delivery transformation.

26 (2) Provide technical assistance, training and education
27 to rural hospitals and participant rural hospitals.

28 (3) Collect and maintain data from rural hospitals and
29 participant rural hospitals, participating payers and others
30 as necessary to carry out the responsibilities of this act.

1 (4) Perform data analysis and quality assurance.

2 (5) Calculate, approve and administer global budgets.

3 The global budget may include payments for eligible hospital
4 services provided under a participant rural hospital's
5 employee health plan.

6 (6) Consistent with Federal and State law, review and
7 approve rural hospital transformation plans, advise and
8 approve changes to operational and payment mechanisms and
9 approve exceptions to agreed-upon payment rules through an
10 approved procedure set forth in the board's bylaws.

11 (7) Review and approve any participant rural hospital
12 investments outside the global budget.

13 (8) Assist rural hospitals and participant rural
14 hospitals in working with community-based organizations to
15 determine the targeted population health improvement goals.

16 (9) Evaluate the progress of the implementation of each
17 participant rural hospital's global budget toward population
18 health improvement goals and the cost of achieving health
19 care goals.

20 (10) Monitor global budgets and quality metrics for
21 participant rural hospitals.

22 (11) Provide an annual assessment of each participant
23 rural hospital's compliance with its rural hospital
24 transformation plan and global budget targets.

25 (12) Require a participant rural hospital to submit a
26 corrective action plan for failure to submit a rural hospital
27 transformation plan, comply with its rural hospital
28 transformation plan or meet its global budget targets.

29 (13) Terminate a participant rural hospital from the
30 global budget model in accordance with the participant rural

1 hospital's participation agreement.

2 (14) Contract with an independent evaluation group to
3 provide the board and executive director with an evaluation
4 of the global budget model's progress in the areas of
5 population health, quality of care and cost targets.

6 (15) Review and update the definition of "eligible
7 hospital services" by transmitting a notice to the
8 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the
9 Pennsylvania Bulletin, subject to obtaining all necessary
10 Federal approvals. The board shall use data collected under
11 paragraph (3) in its review.

12 (c) Audit.--

13 (1) The accounts and books of the authority shall be
14 examined and audited annually by an independent certified
15 public accounting firm. The audit shall be public
16 information.

17 (2) The authority shall, by December 31 of each year,
18 file a copy of the audit of the preceding Commonwealth fiscal
19 year required under paragraph (1) with the Secretary of the
20 Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
21 and provide a copy to the department.

22 (d) Reports.--The authority shall:

23 (1) Submit an annual report on the performance and
24 compliance of each participant rural hospital to the
25 department and to other appropriate parties, including
26 associations, foundations, academic institutions and
27 community-based organizations, as determined by the board.

28 (2) Submit an annual report to the Governor, the
29 President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the
30 House of Representatives for distribution to the Health and

1 Human Services Committee of the Senate and the Health
2 Committee of the House of Representatives on the activities
3 of the authority for the year.

4 (3) Comply with applicable Federal reporting
5 requirements.

6 (e) Compensation and expenses.--The members of the board
7 shall not receive a salary or per diem allowance for serving as
8 members of the board but shall be reimbursed for actual and
9 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
10 Reasonable expenses may include reimbursement of travel and
11 living expenses while engaged in board business. The expenses
12 shall be paid for by the fund.

13 (f) Publication.--The authority shall annually submit a
14 financial statement to the Legislative Reference Bureau for
15 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

16 CHAPTER 5

17 PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL BUDGET MODEL

18 Section 501. Roles of participating payers.

19 (a) Letter of interest.--A payer may submit a letter of
20 interest to the authority to participate in the global budget
21 model.

22 (b) Agreement to participate.--As a condition of
23 participation, a participating payer shall sign an agreement
24 with the authority. The agreement must detail the terms and
25 conditions of participation in the global budget model.

26 (c) Termination.--A participating payer may terminate its
27 participation with a participant rural hospital according to the
28 terms and conditions of the agreement under subsection (b).

29 Section 502. Roles of participant rural hospitals.

30 (a) Letter of interest.--A rural hospital may submit a

1 letter of interest to the authority to participate in the global
2 budget model.

3 (b) Condition of participation.--As a condition of
4 participation:

5 (1) A rural hospital must submit an initial rural
6 hospital transformation plan in the manner and form
7 prescribed by the authority for review and approval.

8 (2) A participant rural hospital must sign an agreement
9 with the authority that specifies the terms and conditions of
10 participation in the global budget model.

11 (3) A participant rural hospital must submit annual
12 updates to its rural hospital transformation plan in the
13 manner and form prescribed by the authority for review and
14 approval.

15 CHAPTER 7

16 DATA COLLECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

17 Section 701. Data collection and retention.

18 (a) Authority.--

19 (1) The authority may collect and analyze data from
20 participating payers, rural hospitals, participant rural
21 hospitals and the Department of Human Services necessary to
22 carry out the authority's responsibilities under this act,
23 including the data needed to develop global budgets, create
24 rural hospital transformation plans and submit reports
25 regarding monitoring and oversight of the global budget
26 model. Data collected by the authority shall only be used for
27 administering the global budget model.

28 (2) The authority shall obtain the written approval of a
29 participating payer, rural hospital, participant rural
30 hospital or the Department of Human Services before the

1 authority can use the entity's data for any other purpose.

2 (3) The authority shall retain the data for no more than
3 seven years.

4 (b) Participant rural hospital.--A participant rural
5 hospital may authorize its insurer or administrator to provide
6 data to the authority regarding payments for eligible hospital
7 services provided under the hospital's employee health plan.

8 (c) Release of data.--Unless specifically provided for in
9 this act, the authority may not release and no data source,
10 person, member of the public or other user of any data of the
11 authority may gain access to:

12 (1) Raw data which could reasonably be expected to
13 reveal the identity of an individual patient.

14 (2) Raw data disclosing discounts or allowances between
15 participating payers and participant rural hospitals which is
16 prejudicial to an individual participating payer or
17 participant rural hospital.

18 (3) Data which the Department of Human Services provides
19 to the authority, unless the Secretary of Human Services or
20 the designee of the Secretary of Human Services specifically
21 authorizes the release or access.

22 (4) Any data where a conflict of interest occurs.

23 Section 702. Confidentiality of data, contracts and agreements.

24 (a) Right-to-Know Law inapplicable.--Any contract or
25 agreement between participating payers and participant rural
26 hospitals or any data provided by a participating payer, a
27 participant rural hospital, including a participant rural
28 hospital's insurer or administrator, a rural hospital or the
29 Department of Human Services to the authority and maintained by
30 the authority for the purposes of carrying out the requirements

1 of this act shall be confidential and shall not be subject to
2 the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-
3 to-Know Law, or discoverable or admissible as evidence in any
4 civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding.

5 (b) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be
6 construed to prohibit the authority from accessing the data to
7 carry out its responsibilities in accordance with law.

8 (c) Release of data.--Data provided to the Centers for
9 Medicare and Medicaid Services, or any other entity, by the
10 authority shall be provided consistent with applicable laws and
11 regulations, including the Health Insurance Portability and
12 Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936),
13 the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical
14 Health Act (Public Law 111-5, 123 Stat. 226-279 and 467-496) and
15 implementing regulations, to the extent allowed by law and
16 written agreements between the authority and each participating
17 payer and participant rural hospital.

18 CHAPTER 9

19 PENNSYLVANIA RURAL HEALTH REDESIGN CENTER FUND

20 Section 901. Establishment of fund.

21 The Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Fund is
22 established as a separate fund in the State Treasury. The fund
23 shall be administered by the authority.

24 Section 902. Money in fund.

25 All money deposited into the fund shall be held for the
26 purposes of the authority and may not be considered a part of
27 the General Fund but shall be used only to effectuate the
28 purposes of this act as determined by the authority. All
29 interest earned from the investment or deposit of money
30 accumulated in the fund shall be deposited in the fund for the

1 same use.

2 CHAPTER 21

3 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

4 Section 2101. (Reserved).

5 Section 2102. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 180 days.