

Senate Bill 170

By: Senators Jackson of the 41st, Robertson of the 29th, Summers of the 13th and Halpern of the 39th

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Department of Community Health, so as to provide for a grant program for the purpose of
3 providing funding to certain rural hospitals for acquiring or installing backup generators to
4 ensure continuity of operation during a state of emergency; to provide that the department
5 shall consult with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency in
6 establishing grant criteria; to provide for the department to establish grant amounts; to
7 provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to
8 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Chapter 2 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Department
12 of Community Health, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

13 "31-2-20.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

15 (1) 'Affected rural hospital' means a non-profit or not for profit acute care hospital
16 located in a rural county that contains fewer than 100 beds and is located in any region
17 of the state in which the Governor declared a state of emergency after July 1, 2024.

18 (2) 'Rural county' means a county in this state that has a population of less than 50,000
19 according to the United States decennial census of 2020 or any future such census;
20 provided, however, that for counties which contain a military base or installation, the
21 military personnel and their dependents living in such county shall be excluded from the
22 total population of such county for purposes of this definition.

23 (b) Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly or other available funding,
24 including, but not limited to, federal funding, the department shall establish a grant
25 program to provide funding to affected rural hospitals for the purpose of acquiring,
26 installing, or both acquiring and installing backup generators to ensure continuity of
27 operation during a state of emergency. The department, in consultation with the director
28 of emergency management and homeland security shall establish grant criteria and make
29 award decisions; provided, however, that the department and the director of emergency
30 management and homeland security shall only provide funding to those affected rural
31 hospitals that do not have a backup generator as of the effective date of this Act and have
32 not received any federal assistance for the purpose of acquiring or installing a backup
33 generator. The department shall be authorized to establish the grant amount awarded to
34 each recipient on a case-by-case basis."

35 **SECTION 2.**

36 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
37 without such approval.

38 **SECTION 3.**

39 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.