

Regular Session, 1999

SENATE BILL NO. 374

BY SENATOR JONES

HEALTH CARE. Provides for the funding of rural primary health care clinics, rural health care initiatives, and health initiatives in medically underserved areas out of tobacco settlement money. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Part X-A of Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Louisiana
3 Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 40:2195.6, relative to
4 health care; to provide funding for the establishment of rural primary
5 health care clinics, rural health care initiatives, and health initiatives in
6 medically underserved areas in the state from a portion of monies
7 received by the state in settlement of certain litigation; to provide an
8 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Part X-A of Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised
11 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 40:2195.6, is hereby amended and
12 reenacted to read as follows:

13 PART X-A. RURAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINICS, RURAL
14 HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES, AND HEALTH INITIATIVES IN
15 MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS ~~IN RURAL PARISHES~~

1 §2195.6. Primary Rural primary health care clinics, rural health
2 care initiatives, and health care initiatives in
3 medically underserved areas; pilot programs;
4 established

5 A. The Department of Health and Hospitals shall establish rural
6 primary health care clinics, rural health care initiatives, and health
7 initiatives in medically underserved areas in each of the rural
8 parishes throughout the state to expand primary health care and medical
9 services to rural areas and to encourage development of greater access
10 to health care for the underprivileged, working poor, and minorities in
11 these rural parishes ~~if and when one hundred percent federal funding~~
12 ~~becomes available for this purpose~~ from a portion of money which is
13 received by the state each year as the result of a settlement
14 embodied in a document called the Master Settlement Agreement
15 which was signed on November 23, 1998 in settlement of litigation
16 involving forty-six states, including Louisiana, and the Brown and
17 Williamson Tobacco Corporation.

18 R.S. 40:2195.6(B) is all proposed new law.

19 B. In each congressional district of the state, the department
20 shall establish pilot programs of rural primary health care clinics, rural
21 health care initiatives, and health care initiatives in medically
22 underserved areas.

23 C. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to
24 ~~establish and operate these clinics~~ to implement the provisions of this
25 Part in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

26 D. The provisions of this Section shall not become effective
27 until the passage of a constitutional amendment authorizing the

1 **expenditure of the tobacco settlement funds for use in rural health**
 2 **care initiatives and medically underserved areas.**

3 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the
 4 governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills
 5 to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III,
 6 Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and
 7 subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on
 8 the day following such approval.

The original instrument was prepared by Donnie Broussard. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Riley Boudreaux.

Jones (SB 374)

DIGEST

Present law requires the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) to establish primary health care clinics in each of the rural parishes throughout the state upon the availability of 100% federal funds and to promulgate rules to implement present law in accordance with the APA.

Proposed law requires the establishment of pilot programs of rural primary health care clinics, rural health care initiatives, and health initiatives in medically underserved areas from a portion of money received by the state each year from the tobacco settlement.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action, but not until the passage of a constitutional amendment authorizing the expenditure of tobacco settlement fund for use in rural health care initiative and medically underserved areas.

(Amends R.S. 40:2195.6)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

1. Changes purpose from establishing primary health care clinics in rural parishes to establishing pilot programs of rural primary health care clinics, rural health care initiatives and health initiatives in medically underserved areas.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Conditions proposed law on passage of a constitutional amendment authorizing the expenditure of tobacco settlement funds for use in rural health care initiative and medically underserved areas.