
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 314 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, ARGALL, BARTOLOTTA, BROOKS, STEFANO, YAW,
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FEBRUARY 19, 2019

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center
2 Authority and the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center
3 Fund.

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

9 CHAPTER 1

10 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

11 Section 101. Short title.

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

14 Section 102. Purpose.

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

19 Section 103. Definitions.

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

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

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

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

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

30 (1) Has an interest in one or more parties involved in

1 an action under section 303.

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

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

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

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

12 (1) Postacute care.

13 (2) Professional services.

14 (3) Durable medical equipment.

15 (4) Dental services.

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

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

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

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

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

1 global budget methodology established by the authority.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (3) A professional health service corporation as defined

1 in 40 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to professional health
2 services plan corporations).

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 "Rural hospital." An acute care hospital or critical access

1 hospital located in a rural county.

2 "Rural hospital transformation plan." A description of the
3 health care delivery system transformation that a participant
4 rural hospital will undergo under the global budget model, as
5 approved by the board and the Federal Government.

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 provide posthospital skilled nursing facility
10 care when the rural hospital participates in the Medicare
11 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 by each participating payer that
12 is an insurer on behalf of the participating payer and the
13 participating payer's parents, affiliates, subsidiaries,
14 other associated entities and successors. The selection under
15 this paragraph shall exclude any affiliated, subsidiary or
16 otherwise associated Medicaid managed care organization.

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, geographically diverse participant
28 rural hospitals, and 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 appointed by the Governor who are
6 nationally recognized experts in rural health care delivery
7 or in developing and administering global budgets.

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, failure to qualify or similar
20 reasons, a new member shall be appointed or selected within
21 60 days of the seat becoming vacant.

22 (d) Quorum.--A majority of the members of the board shall
23 constitute a quorum. Action may be taken by the board at a
24 meeting upon a vote of a majority of its members present in
25 person or through electronic means. If a tie vote occurs at any
26 meeting, it shall be the duty of the chairperson to cast the
27 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 exist. Board members may not receive confidential
10 information, data or material related to an entity where a
11 conflict of interest may exist.

12 (i) Compensation and expenses.--Members of the board shall
13 not receive a salary or per diem allowance for serving as
14 members of the board but shall be reimbursed for actual and
15 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
16 Reasonable expenses may include reimbursement of travel and
17 living expenses while engaged in board business. The expenses
18 shall be paid for by the fund.

19 Section 303. Powers and duties.

20 (a) General rule.--The board shall exercise all powers
21 necessary and appropriate to carry out its duties under this
22 act, including the following:

23 (1) Adopt bylaws necessary to carry out the provisions
24 of this act. The bylaws shall include a provision addressing
25 conflicts of interest as well as a provision that restricts
26 board discussions and decisions to the administration of the
27 global budget model as provided under subsection (b).

28 (2) Make, execute and deliver contracts, grants and
29 other instruments necessary or convenient to exercise the
30 powers and duties of the board.

1 (3) Apply for, solicit, receive, establish priorities
2 for, allocate, disburse, contract or grant for, administer
3 and expend money in the fund and other money made available
4 to the authority from any other source consistent with the
5 purposes of this act. The authority shall be exempt from the
6 provisions of 62 Pa.C.S. Pts. I (relating to Commonwealth
7 Procurement Code) and II (relating to general procurement
8 provisions).

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

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

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

21 (i) The board may acquire property or money for this
22 purpose by purchase or lease and by the acceptance of
23 gifts, grants, bequests, devises or loans, but no
24 obligation of the authority shall be a debt of the
25 Commonwealth, and the authority shall have no power to
26 pledge the credit or taxing power of the Commonwealth nor
27 to make its debts payable out of any money except those
28 of the corporation. This subparagraph is not intended to
29 mean that the board may acquire rural hospitals or
30 participant rural hospitals.

1 (ii) All accrued and future earnings from money
2 invested by the board and other accrued and future
3 nonappropriated funds, including, but not limited to,
4 funds obtained from the Federal Government and
5 contributions, shall be available to the authority and
6 shall be deposited in the State Treasury and may be
7 utilized at the discretion of the board for carrying out
8 any of the corporate purposes of the authority. Any
9 placement of the funds by the State Treasurer in
10 depositories or investments shall be consistent with
11 guidelines approved by the board. For the purpose of
12 administration, the authority shall be subject to
13 sections 610, 613 and 614 of act of April 9, 1929
14 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of
15 1929.

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

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

21 (9) Establish advisory groups with a diverse membership
22 representing interested and affected groups and individuals
23 as the board finds necessary to carry out the purposes of
24 this act.

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

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

29 (b) Global budget model.--The board is responsible for
30 administering the global budget model and shall:

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

5 (2) Provide technical assistance, training and education
6 to rural hospitals and participant rural hospitals.

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

10 (4) Perform data analysis and quality assurance.

11 (5) Calculate, approve and administer global budgets.
12 The global budgets may include payments for eligible hospital
13 services provided under a participant rural hospital's
14 employee health plan.

15 (6) Consistent with Federal and State law, review and
16 approve rural hospital transformation plans, advise and
17 approve changes to operational and payment mechanisms and
18 approve exceptions to agreed-upon payment rules through an
19 approved procedure provided in the board's bylaws.

20 (7) Assist rural hospitals and participant rural
21 hospitals in working with community-based organizations to
22 determine the targeted population health improvement goals.

23 (8) Evaluate the progress of the implementation of each
24 participant rural hospital's global budget toward population
25 health improvement goals and the cost of achieving health
26 care goals.

27 (9) Monitor global budgets and quality metrics for
28 participant rural hospitals.

29 (10) Provide an annual assessment of each participant
30 rural hospital's compliance with its rural hospital

1 transformation plan and global budget targets.

2 (11) Require a participant rural hospital to submit a
3 corrective action plan for failure to submit a rural hospital
4 transformation plan, comply with its rural hospital
5 transformation plan or meet its global budget targets.

6 (12) Terminate a participant rural hospital from the
7 global budget model in accordance with the participant rural
8 hospital's participation agreement.

9 (13) Contract with an independent evaluation group to
10 provide the board and executive director with an evaluation
11 of the global budget model's progress in the areas of
12 population health, quality of care and cost targets.

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

19 (c) Audit.--

20 (1) The accounts and books of the authority shall be
21 examined and audited annually by an independent certified
22 public accounting firm. The audit shall be public
23 information.

24 (2) The authority shall, by December 31 of each year,
25 file a copy of the audit of the preceding Commonwealth fiscal
26 year required under paragraph (1) with the Secretary of the
27 Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
28 and provide a copy to the department.

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

30 (1) Electronically submit an annual report on the

1 performance and compliance of each participant rural hospital
2 to the department and to other appropriate parties, including
3 associations, foundations, academic institutions and
4 community-based organizations, as determined by the board.

5 (2) Electronically submit an annual report to the
6 Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate and the
7 Speaker of the House of Representatives for distribution to
8 the Health and Human Services Committee of the Senate and the
9 Health Committee of the House of Representatives on the
10 activities of the authority for the year.

11 (3) Comply with applicable Federal reporting
12 requirements.

13 (e) Publication.--The authority shall annually transmit a
14 financial statement and the authority's audit as a notice to the
15 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania
16 Bulletin.

17 CHAPTER 5

18 PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL BUDGET MODEL

19 Section 501. Roles of participating payers.

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

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

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

30 Section 502. Roles of participant rural hospitals.

1 (a) Letter of interest.--A rural hospital may submit a
2 letter of interest to the authority to participate in the global
3 budget model.

4 (b) Condition of participation.--As a condition of
5 participation, the following shall occur:

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

9 (2) A participant rural hospital shall sign an agreement
10 with the authority. The agreement shall detail the terms and
11 conditions of participation in the global budget model.

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

16 CHAPTER 7

17 DATA COLLECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

18 Section 701. Data collection and retention.

19 (a) Authority.--The authority may collect and analyze data
20 from 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. Data
23 collected by the authority shall only be used for administering
24 the global budget model. The authority shall obtain the written
25 approval of a participating payer, rural hospital, participant
26 rural hospital or the Department of Human Services before the
27 authority can use the entity's data for any other purpose. The
28 authority shall retain the data for no more than seven years.

29 (b) Participant rural hospital.--A participant rural
30 hospital may authorize its insurer or administrator to provide

1 data to the authority regarding payments for eligible hospital
2 services provided under the hospital's employee health plan.

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

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

9 (2) Raw data disclosing discounts or allowances between
10 participating payers and participant rural hospitals which is
11 prejudicial to an individual participating payer or
12 participant rural hospital.

13 (3) Data which the Department of Human Services provides
14 to the authority, unless the Secretary of Human Services or
15 the designee of the Secretary of Human Services specifically
16 authorizes the release or access.

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

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

19 (a) Right-to-Know Law inapplicable.--Any contract or
20 agreement between participating payers and participant rural
21 hospitals or any data, including patient data, provided by a
22 participating payer, a participant rural hospital, including a
23 participant rural hospital's insurer or administrator, a rural
24 hospital or the Department of Human Services to the authority
25 and maintained by the authority for the purposes of carrying out
26 the requirements of this act shall be confidential and shall not
27 be subject to the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known
28 as the Right-to-Know Law, or discoverable or admissible as
29 evidence in any civil, criminal or administrative action or
30 proceeding.

1 (b) Authority access to data.--Nothing in this section shall
2 prohibit the authority from accessing the data to carry out its
3 responsibilities in accordance with law.

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

14 CHAPTER 9

15 PENNSYLVANIA RURAL HEALTH REDESIGN CENTER FUND

16 Section 901. Establishment of fund.

17 The Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Fund is
18 established as a separate fund in the State Treasury.

19 Section 902. Money in fund.

20 All money deposited into the fund shall be held for the
21 purposes of the authority and may not be considered a part of
22 the General Fund but shall be used only to effectuate the
23 purposes of this act as determined by the authority. All
24 interest earned from the investment or deposit of money
25 accumulated in the fund shall be deposited in the fund for the
26 same use. Any money returned to the authority by any party shall
27 be deposited into the fund.

28 CHAPTER 21

29 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

30 Section 2101. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect in 180 days.