

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 231

**SESSION:** 2004 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** Hospitals

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## Overview

This act establishes a process by which the Commissioner of Health must issue findings to the legislature when a hospital or organization seeks an exception to the hospital moratorium. In addition, the act requires all loans or grants awarded before a certain date under the rural hospital grant program to be considered grants.

- 1 **Status of previous awards.** Amends § 144.148 by adding subd. 9. Requires the Commissioner of Health to regard loans or grants awarded before August 1, 1999, under the Rural Hospital Grant Program as grants, and not subject to repayment.
- 2 **Public interest review.** Adds § 144.552. Requires hospitals or organizations seeking an exception to the hospital moratorium to submit a plan to the commissioner of Health explaining the public interest. The applicant must pay the commissioner for the cost of the review, and the commissioner may request information from the applicant or others as needed. The commissioner must submit findings within specified time limits to the Health and Human Services Policy and Finance Committee chairs on whether the plan is in the public interest. In making the recommendations, the commissioner is required to consider:
  - 1. how the plan would affect access to care or improved services;
  - 2. how the plan would affect nearby acute-care hospitals financially;
  - 3. how the plan would affect nearby hospitals' staffing;
  - 4. how the plan would affect services to low-income or nonpaying patients relative

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to existing services; and

- 5. the views of affected parties.