

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Peppin

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Analyst: Janelle Taylor, 651-296-5808

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Overview

This bill revises the eligibility requirements of the Rural Hospital Grant Program. It also provides modifications to the hospital construction moratorium and swing bed license requirements in order to adapt to changes in federal law.

Section

- 1** **Definition.** Amends § 144.147, subd. 1. Modifies the definition of an "eligible rural hospital" for the purposes of the rural hospital grant program by increasing the population limit for an eligible hospital's community from less than 10,000 to less than 15,000. The increase retains eligibility for current and prospective critical access hospitals.
- 2** **Definition.** Amends § 144.148, subd. 1. Modifies the definition of an "eligible rural hospital" for the purposes of the rural hospital capital improvement grant program by increasing the population limit for an eligible hospital's community from less than 10,000 to less than 15,000. The increase retains eligibility for current and prospective critical access hospitals.
- 3** **Restricted construction or modification.** Amends § 144.551, subd. 1. Adds clause (19) to exempt critical access hospitals (who delicensed beds in order to comply with the federal limits for critical access hospitals established in 1997) from the existing hospital construction moratorium provided they do not exceed the limits established in federal law. Several critical access hospitals reduced the number of licensed beds between 1998 and 2003 to comply with the limit of 15 beds established in federal law in 1997. In 2003, the federal limit was increased to 25; this change would allow hospitals to adjust to the federal change.

Section

- 4** **Eligibility for license condition.** Amends § 144.562, subd. 2. Exempts critical access hospitals from the daily limit of ten swing beds and the annual limit of 1,460 swing bed days, and allows them to operate their swing beds in accordance with federal laws.