

1 SB351  
2 191531-6  
3 By Senator Reed  
4 RFD: Health and Human Services  
5 First Read: 27-FEB-18

1 SB351

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4 ENROLLED, An Act,

5 Relating to health care; to create the Alabama Rural  
6 Hospital Resource Center, within the University of Alabama at  
7 Birmingham; to provide staffing and reporting requirements for  
8 the resource center; to create a rural administrative  
9 residency program; and to establish the areas in which the  
10 resource center may support participating rural hospitals.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

12 Section 1. (a) The University of Alabama at  
13 Birmingham shall establish the Alabama Rural Hospital Resource  
14 Center.

15 (b) The purpose of the resource center is to  
16 facilitate access to high quality care for rural Alabamians  
17 and improve their health by increasing the viability and  
18 capabilities of eligible hospitals at no or minimal cost to  
19 those hospitals.

20 (c) For the purposes of this section, the following  
21 terms shall have the following meanings:

22 (1) ELIGIBLE HOSPITAL. A nonprofit or public rural  
23 hospital.

24 (2) RESOURCE CENTER. The Rural Hospital Resource  
25 Center of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

1 (3) RURAL. Located in one of the following:

2 a. An area designated as a shortage area as defined  
3 in 42 C.F.R. § 491.5(c) and (d); or

4 b. A rural area as defined by the Federal Office of  
5 Rural Health Policy.

6 (d) The resource center shall do all of the  
7 following:

8 (1) Hire necessary staff that is inclusive and  
9 reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and  
10 economic diversity of the state.

11 (2) Annually submit a report to the Legislature,  
12 State Finance Director, and Medicaid Commissioner regarding  
13 the effectiveness of the resource center. The report shall  
14 include all of the following:

15 a. The financial improvement of participating  
16 hospitals.

17 b. Satisfaction survey results from the management  
18 team and board of directors of each participating hospital.

19 c. Improvements in the quality of participating  
20 hospitals.

21 d. Improvements in access to care.

22 e. Improvements in health status.

23 (3) Establish a rural administrative residency  
24 program by working with the Graduate Program in Health  
25 Administration of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and

1 pursuing funding for administrative residents who wish to work  
2 in rural health care.

3 (e) The resource center may provide support to  
4 participating eligible hospitals in all of the following  
5 areas:

6 (1) Compliance.

7 (2) Coding.

8 (3) Purchasing and supply chain.

9 (4) Quality.

10 (5) Strategic planning.

11 (6) Provider recruitment.

12 (7) Cost report.

13 (8) Insurance.

14 (9) Any other area that furthers the purpose of the  
15 resource center.

16 Section 2. The obligations imposed by this act shall  
17 not be implemented within the University of Alabama at  
18 Birmingham until formally approved by the University of  
19 Alabama at Birmingham and sufficient funds for the purposes  
20 set forth in this act are provided through the Governor or  
21 appropriated by the Legislature, and thereafter shall only be  
22 implemented to the extent that funds are appropriated.

23 Section 3. This act shall become effective  
24 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
25 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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President and Presiding Officer of  
the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representa-  
tives

SB351  
Senate 13-MAR-18  
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and passed the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,  
Secretary.

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House of Representatives  
Amended and passed 20-MAR-18

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Senate concurred in House amendment 21-MAR-18

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By: Senator Reed