

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 675

Representatives Stephens, Deeter

To establish a temporary program for hospital 1
payments made by Medicaid managed care 2
organizations and to name this act the Healthier 3
Rural Hospitals Act. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. (A) The Department of Medicaid shall establish 5
a program under which hospitals in counties in this state with a 6
population less than one hundred thousand residents receive 7
specified payments from a Medicaid managed care organization in 8
accordance with this section. As part of the program, the 9
Department shall calculate the statewide average payment rate 10
paid by Medicaid managed care organizations to all hospitals for 11
hospital services provided to Medicaid recipients. 12

(B) The Department shall determine a hospital's 13
eligibility to receive payments under the program by calculating 14
a score for each county in this state with a population less 15
than one hundred thousand residents. Scores shall equal the sum 16
of a county's ranking in the following categories: 17

(1) The county's rank in this state based on the county's 18
age-adjusted rate of cancer deaths per one hundred thousand 19
residents for calendar year 2022. A rank of one shall reflect 20

the highest rate of cancer deaths in this state. 21

(2) The county's rank in this state based on the county's 22
percentage of population at or below one hundred fifty per cent 23
of the federal poverty level. A rank of one shall reflect the 24
highest per cent of individuals at or below one hundred fifty 25
per cent of the federal poverty level in this state. 26

(3) The county's rank in this state based on the county's 27
age-adjusted rate of deaths from chronic lower respiratory 28
disease per one hundred thousand residents for calendar year 29
2022. A rank of one shall reflect the highest rate of deaths in 30
this state. 31

(4) The county's rank in this state based on the county's 32
age-adjusted rate of death from stroke per one hundred thousand 33
residents for calendar year 2022. A rank of one shall reflect 34
the highest rate of deaths in this state. 35

(5) The county's rank in this state based on the county's 36
average annual age-adjusted rate of unintentional drug overdose 37
death for calendar years 2017 through 2021. A rank of one shall 38
reflect the highest average annual rate of deaths in this state. 39

(C) After calculating scores under division (B) of this 40
section, the Department shall rank all counties in this state 41
with a population less than one hundred thousand residents from 42
lowest to highest. The twenty lowest-ranked counties shall be 43
eligible to participate in the program established under this 44
section. 45

(1) For counties ranked one through ten, a Medicaid 46
managed care organization shall pay each hospital located in an 47
eligible county a payment rate for hospital services that is at 48
least one hundred fifty per cent of the statewide average rate 49

calculated by the Department under division (A) of this section. 50

(2) For counties ranked eleven through twenty, a Medicaid 51
managed care organization shall pay each hospital located in an 52
eligible county a payment rate for hospital services that is at 53
least one hundred twenty-five per cent of the statewide average 54
rate calculated by the Department under division (A) of this 55
section. 56

(D) In making payments under division (C) of this section, 57
a Medicaid managed care organization shall not reduce the 58
payment rate made to a hospital not participating in the program 59
as a means of making payments in accordance with this section. 60

(E) The Department shall terminate the program two years 61
after the effective date of this section. 62

Section 2. This act shall be known as the Healthier Rural 63
Hospitals Act. 64