

## Medicaid Coverage and Eligibility

### SB 2735

**Bill Name:** Medicaid Eligibility Technical Amendments

**Bill Author(s):** Senate Medicaid Committee

**Current Status:** Referred To Medicaid

**Narrative:** This bill makes technical updates to Mississippi Medicaid eligibility statutes to align age, income, and eligibility standards with current federal and state criteria. The measure is intended to improve administrative clarity and reduce confusion for beneficiaries and providers. By updating outdated language, the bill may improve access to Medicaid coverage for rural residents who rely heavily on the program. Rural hospitals and clinics could benefit from clearer eligibility determinations and fewer coverage disruptions.

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## Rural Hospital Financing and Sustainability

### HB 989

**Bill Name:** Rural Hospital Tax Credit Act

**Bill Author(s):** House Ways and Means Committee

**Current Status:** Referred to House Ways and Means Committee

**Narrative:** This bill would authorize income and ad valorem tax credits for voluntary cash contributions made to rural hospitals. The goal is to encourage private financial support for struggling rural facilities. Additional revenue streams could help rural hospitals maintain essential services and avoid closure. The bill seeks to leverage community investment to support rural health infrastructure.

### HB 637

**Bill Name:** South Central Regional Medical Center Rural Health Institute Bond Authorization

**Bill Author(s):** House Ways and Means Committee

**Current Status:** Referred to House Ways and Means Committee

**Narrative:** This bill authorizes the issuance of state general obligation bonds to support construction of a Rural Health Institute at South Central Regional Medical Center. The institute is intended to strengthen rural workforce training and healthcare delivery. Investment in regional rural health infrastructure may improve care coordination and provider retention. The bill targets long term capacity building in rural Mississippi.

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# Telehealth and Care Delivery Access

## HB 1657

**Bill Name:** Telemedicine Authorization for Health Benefit Plans

**Bill Author(s):** House Insurance Committee

**Current Status:** Transmitted To Senate

**Narrative:** This bill expands authorization for telemedicine use in health benefit plans. Increased flexibility may improve access to specialty and primary care in rural areas. Telemedicine is particularly valuable for rural hospitals with limited on site services. The bill supports modernized care delivery across rural Mississippi.

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# Rural Health System Oversight and Programs

## HB 1067

**Bill Name:** Rural Health Transformation Program Competitive Bidding

**Bill Author(s):** House Public Health and Human Services Committee

**Current Status:** Transmitted To Senate

**Narrative:** This bill requires vendors and subcontractors funded through the Rural Health Transformation Program to undergo a competitive bidding process. The goal is to improve transparency and accountability in the use of rural health funds. Strong oversight may ensure that resources are directed efficiently to rural health priorities. The bill impacts how transformation dollars are implemented rather than program eligibility.

## SB 2477

**Bill Name:** Rural Health Transformation Program Competitive Bidding

**Bill Author(s):** Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

**Current Status:** Title Suff Do Pass As Amended

**Narrative:** This Senate companion bill mirrors House legislation requiring competitive bidding for vendors funded by the Rural Health Transformation Program. The measure emphasizes fiscal responsibility and standardized procurement. Proper oversight of transformation funds is critical for long term rural health system improvement. The bill affects administrative processes supporting rural care initiatives.