

SENATE FILE NO. SF0158

Medical clinics.

Sponsored by: Senate Labor, Health and Social Services
Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to rural health care districts; providing
2 procedures for establishing districts; authorizing
3 districts to operate clinics to alleviate shortages in the
4 availability of health care including physicians and other
5 primary health care providers; modifying procedures for
6 establishing special rural health districts; modifying
7 district powers; authorizing increased mill levies for
8 special rural health districts with a vote of the people;
9 authorizing districts to use governmental funds to
10 establish private clinics as an economic development
11 measure with a vote of the people; and providing for an
12 effective date.

13

14 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

15

1 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-2-701(e) and by creating a new
2 subsection (f), 35-2-703(a) by creating new paragraphs (x)
3 through (xii) and by creating new subsections (b) through
4 (d), 35-2-708(c) and by creating new subsections (d) and
5 (e) are amended to read:

6
7 **35-2-701. Procedure for proposing establishment of**
8 **special rural health care districts.**

9
10 (e) A special rural health care district may be
11 established under the procedures for petitioning, hearing
12 and election of special districts as set forth in the
13 Special District Elections Act of 1994, except that the
14 county commissioners shall accept either a petition from
15 landowners as provided by the Special District Elections
16 Act or a petition from a hospital district, the governing
17 body of a county memorial hospital or the governing body of
18 an entity leasing hospital facilities from the county and
19 operating a general hospital therein in lieu of the
20 petition from landowners.

21
22 (f) Special rural health care districts may be
23 established with overlapping jurisdictions, but in these
24 cases the county commissioners shall require the districts

1 to enter into an agreement in writing setting forth the
2 responsibilities and activities of the several districts.
3 The commissioners may modify the agreement from time to
4 time with the consent of the district boards.

5
6 **35-2-703. Body corporate; name and style; powers**
7 **generally; rules and regulations of trustees.**

8
9 (a) Each district so established is a body corporate
10 and shall be designated by the name of the rural
11 health care district. The district name shall be entered
12 upon the commissioners' records and shall be selected by
13 the board of county commissioners of the county in which
14 the greater area of land within the district is located. In
15 the name so selected, the district through its governing
16 board may:

17
18 (x) Operate one (1) or more medical clinics for
19 the provision of health care;

20
21 (xi) Employ physicians, physician assistants,
22 advance practice nurses, nurses and other needed personnel
23 to operate the clinic or clinics. The persons so employed

1 may, as district employees, practice their professions
2 outside the clinic and may obtain hospital privileges;

3
4 (xii) Obtain needed insurance from the local
5 government self insurance pool.

6
7 (b) All areas of the state are hereby declared to be
8 sufficiently rural to qualify for a special rural health
9 care district.

10
11 (c) In the event the district is profitable, the
12 profits may be used as follows:

13
14 (i) A reserve may be established to provide
15 working capital and to ensure the continued operation and
16 financial stability of the district;

17
18 (ii) Any mill levy to support the district or
19 repay its bond or other obligation may be reduced or
20 eliminated;

21
22 (iii) The district may support the provision of
23 health care for those unable to pay due to poverty

1 including cases of extraordinary expense where the persons
2 can pay some but not all of their expenses.

3
4 (d) If the district is dissolved, any funds remaining
5 after its outstanding obligations are paid shall be used to
6 support the provision of health care for those unable to
7 pay due to poverty. The county commissioners shall make
8 any provisions as are necessary to administer these funds.

9
10 **35-2-708. Administration of finances; assessment and**
11 **levy of taxes.**

12
13 (c) The board of county commissioners, at the time of
14 making the levy for county purposes shall levy a tax for
15 that year upon the taxable property in the district in its
16 county for its proportionate share based on assessed
17 valuation of the estimated amount of funds needed by each
18 rural health care district, but in no case shall the tax
19 for the district exceed in any one (1) year the amount of
20 two (2) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation of the
21 property, except as provided by subsection (d) of this
22 section.

1 (d) The levy established pursuant to subsection (c)
2 of this section may exceed two (2) mills if a higher levy
3 has been approved by a vote of the people. The ballot
4 resolution shall specify the maximum number of mills that
5 may be levied and the duration of the authorization for
6 additional mills which shall not exceed four (4) years.
7 The county commissioners in their discretion may place the
8 proposition to allow the mill levy on the ballot following
9 a petition from the district board. The election shall be
10 held as specified by W.S. 22-29-113.

11
12 (e) With the approval of the voters, the district
13 may, as an economic development measure, establish
14 privately owned and operated health care clinics including
15 facilities, equipment, supplies and working capital. The
16 district may provide for repayment of funds used for this
17 purpose and may make the repayment contingent on the degree
18 of profitability of the clinic. The approval of the voters
19 shall be obtained in the same manner as other proposals
20 implementing article 16, section 3, of the Wyoming
21 Constitution and may be placed on the ballot only with the
22 approval of the county commissioners.

23

1 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
4 Constitution.

5

6

(END)