

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5989

To authorize rural health facilities to use certain Federal agricultural credit assistance for the purpose of refinancing debt obligations, updating necessary services, technology, and equipment, and supporting ancillary needs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 19, 2023

Ms. CARAVEO (for herself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOYLAN, and Ms. SALINAS)
introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize rural health facilities to use certain Federal agricultural credit assistance for the purpose of refinancing debt obligations, updating necessary services, technology, and equipment, and supporting ancillary needs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Health Care
5 Facilities Revitalization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED RURAL HEALTH**
2 **CARE FACILITIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Consolidated
4 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922–1936c)
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 310J. ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED RURAL HEALTH**
7 **CARE FACILITIES.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A health care facility, including
9 a hospital, behavioral health facility, health care clinic (in-
10 cluding a mobile health care clinic), home health agency,
11 and long-term care facility, in a rural area may use assist-
12 ance provided under section 306(a) for a community facil-
13 ity, or under section 310B, to—

14 “(1) refinance a debt obligation;

15 “(2) update a telehealth, equipment, or online
16 database; or

17 “(3) support ancillary needs, including oper-
18 ating expenses and reserve funds.

19 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—A facility may use assistance
20 pursuant to subsection (a) only if doing so would—

21 “(1) help preserve access to a health service in
22 a rural community;

23 “(2) meaningfully improve the financial position
24 of the facility; and

1 “(3) otherwise meet the financial feasibility and
2 security adequacy requirements of the Rural Devel-
3 opment Agency.

4 “(c) WAIVER.—In the case of an application from a
5 facility referred to in subsection (a) of this section for as-
6 sistance under section 306(a) for a community facility, or
7 under section 310B, the Secretary may waive the require-
8 ment of section 302(a)(1)(D) if the facility that is insol-
9 vent or located in a persistent poverty area, socially vul-
10 nerable community (as determined by the Secretary), or
11 distressed area (as determined by the Secretary).

12 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) PERSISTENT POVERTY AREA.—The term
14 ‘persistent poverty area’ means an area with a pov-
15 erty rate of 20 percent or more for 4 consecutive
16 time periods, approximately 10 years apart, span-
17 ning approximately 30 years.

18 “(2) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
19 means an area with a population of 50,000 or fewer
20 inhabitants that is not an urbanized area adjacent
21 or contiguous to a city with a population of more
22 than 50,000 inhabitants.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) shall take effect 6 months after the date
3 of the enactment of this Act.

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