



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB1301

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Rep. Amy Briel

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Rural Hospital Task Force Act. Establishes the Rural Hospital Task Force within the Department of Public Health for the purpose of investigating the current state of rural hospitals and providing recommendations to prevent further closures of rural hospitals and to potentially expand rural hospital services. Provides that the Task Force shall convene to conduct business on at least 4 separate days. Requires the Department of Public Health to provide administrative and other support to the Task Force. Requires each agency and entity represented on the Task Force to share with the Task Force any data of the agency or entity necessary to achieve the purpose of the Task Force. Provides that all findings and recommendations made by the Task Force must be reported to the General Assembly before January 1, 2027. Provides that the Task Force is dissolved, and the Act is repealed, on January 1, 2027

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1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Rural
5 Hospital Task Force Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

7 (1) Between January 2013 and February 2020, over 100
8 rural hospitals closed in Illinois.

9 (2) Rural hospitals struggle for several reasons:

10 (A) low patient volume;

11 (B) high fixed costs; and

12 (C) a greater reliance on public payers than
13 privately insured patients.

14 (3) A task force to investigate the current state of
15 rural hospitals and to provide legislative action could
16 prevent further closures and expand services.

17 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

18 "Rural hospital" has the meaning given in subsection (d)
19 of Section 8 of the Hospital Licensing Act.

20 "Task Force" means the Rural Hospital Task Force
21 established under this Act.

1 Section 15. Rural Hospital Task Force.

2 (a) The Rural Hospital Task Force is created within the
3 Department of Public Health. The purpose of this Task Force is
4 to investigate the current state of rural hospitals and to
5 provide recommendations to prevent further closures of rural
6 hospitals and to potentially expand services provided by rural
7 hospitals.

8 (b) The Task Force shall be composed of the following
9 members:

10 (1) the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the
11 Speaker's designee;

12 (2) the President of the Senate or the President's
13 designee;

14 (3) the Minority Leader of the House of
15 Representatives or the Minority Leader's designee;

16 (4) the Minority Leader of the Senate or the Minority
17 Leader's designee;

18 (5) one member appointed by the Director of Public
19 Health;

20 (6) one member appointed by the Director of Financial
21 and Professional Regulation;

22 (7) one member appointed by the Director of Healthcare
23 and Family Services;

24 (8) one member appointed by the Director of Aging;

25 (9) one member representing the Illinois Rural Health
26 Association, appointed by the Governor; and

1 (10) one member representing the Illinois Health and
2 Hospital Association, appointed by the Governor.

3 (b) The Task Force shall convene to conduct business on at
4 least 4 separate days, the first of which shall be held within
5 30 days after the members of the Task Force have been
6 appointed.

7 (c) The members of the Task Force shall serve without
8 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and
9 necessary expenses from funds appropriated for that purpose.

10 (d) The Department of Public Health shall provide
11 administrative and other support to the Task Force. Each
12 agency and entity represented on the Task Force shall share
13 with the Task Force any data of the agency or entity necessary
14 to achieve the purpose of the Task Force under this Act.

15 Section 20. Task Force deadline; repeal.

16 (a) All findings and recommendations made by the Task
17 Force must be reported to the General Assembly before January
18 1, 2027.

19 (b) The Task Force is dissolved, and this Act is repealed,
20 on January 1, 2027.