



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH

JUN 26 1990

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House Bill 5652
Sponsor: Rep. John D. Pridnia
Committee: Public Health

Complete to 5-8-90

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5652 AS INTRODUCED 4-2-90

The bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code allowing the Department of Public Health to establish, together with Michigan State University, a Center for Rural Health.

The center would engage in research, education and advocacy on rural health issues. More specifically, the center would:

- (1) develop a "coordinated rural health program" to address rural health problems and to influence health policy;
- (2) research rural health issues and engage in a variety of educational activities, including suggesting changes in medical school education, giving seminars on rural health issues, establishing a visiting professor program, and running "consumer oriented" rural health education programs;
- (3) give technical help to "the rural health community" and help rural communities apply for grants, recruit and keep health care providers, and plan rural health facilities;
- (4) track the effect of state and federal legislation and judicial decisions on the delivery of rural health care; and
- (5) serve as an advocate for rural health concerns.

The center would take the form of a nonprofit corporation with a ten-member board of directors drawn from state government and from health care provider organizations. The board would appoint a six-member "internal management committee" composed of representatives from Michigan State University and the Department of Public Health.

The board of directors would consist of representatives from the governor's office, the Departments of Public Health and of Commerce, the legislature (one senator and one representative), medical doctors, osteopathic physicians, nurses, and hospitals. The legislative members would have to be from districts that included a county with fewer than 100,000 people and the health care provider representatives would have to practice in a county with the same population limitation. The management committee would consist of representatives from the Department of Public Health, MSU's Cooperative Extension Service, and MSU's Colleges of Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Nursing, and Veterinary Medicine.

MCL 333.2612

House Bill 5652 (5-8-90)