

1 AN ACT relating to the health care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic,
2 making an appropriation therefor, and declaring an emergency.

3 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

4 ➔Section 1. (1) There is hereby appropriated federal funds from the
5 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund of the American Rescue Plan Act in the amount
6 of \$81,000,000 in fiscal year 2021-2022 to the General Administration and Program
7 Support budget unit within the Health and Family Services Cabinet to address the
8 essential need for retaining and recruiting nurses, nurse's aides, respiratory therapists,
9 emergency medical personnel, and other critical medical staff in acute care hospitals and
10 nursing homes due to shortages caused by individuals leaving their professions and by
11 individuals being recruited to work out-of-state during the continuing COVID-19
12 pandemic. The funds shall be distributed to acute care hospitals and nursing homes that
13 are licensed as of the effective date of this Act as follows:

14 (a) A minimum of \$3,000 per licensed hospital bed; and

15 (b) A minimum of \$1,500 per licensed nursing home bed.

16 (2) (a) Funds shall be used in accordance with American Rescue Plan Act and
17 United States Treasury requirements and guidance.

18 (b) Funds shall not be used for any increase in administration fees or salaries for
19 administrative personnel.

20 (c) Funds shall not be used to supplant funding from other state or federal
21 programs.

22 ➔Section 2. (1) The acute care hospitals and nursing homes that receive
23 funds distributed under Section 1 of this Act shall submit to the Cabinet for Health and
24 Family Services a report of all expenditures used, with a breakdown of expenditures that
25 includes but is not limited to the following:

26 (a) The number of health care professionals listed in Section 1 of this Act who are
27 retained and recruited by classification by December 15, 2021; and

1 (b) Any other related information requested by the cabinet.

2 (2) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall submit to the Legislative
3 Research Commission and the Interim Joint Committee on Health, Welfare, & Family
4 Services by December 31, 2021, a report of all expenditures used, with a breakdown of
5 expenditures that includes but is not limited to the following:

6 (a) The number and location of hospitals and nursing homes that have retained
7 and recruited the health care professionals listed in Section 1 of this Act; and

8 (b) The number of health care professionals listed in Section 1 of this Act who are
9 retained and recruited by classification.

10 Section 3. Whereas the health care system is severely stressed by the COVID-19
11 pandemic, the shortage of health care providers in the Commonwealth has become
12 critical, and health care providers have been on the front-lines of care for citizens
13 suffering from COVID-19 at the risk of their own health and their loved ones, an
14 emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by
15 the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.