

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## HB 1162

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Providing medical assistance reimbursements for small, rural hospitals.

**Sponsors:** By Representatives McMorris, Cody, Alexander, Schual-Berke, Mastin, Cox, Mulliken, Sump, G. Chandler, Lisk, B. Chandler, Hatfield, Schoesler, Grant, Armstrong, Kessler, Doumit, DeBolt, Delvin, Dickerson, Kenney, Bush, Conway, Edmonds, Pflug and Haigh.

**House Committee on Health Care**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care**  
**Senate Committee on Ways & Means**

### **Background:**

The Federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established the Critical Access Hospital Program. The program provides enhanced reimbursement through the Medicare program for small rural hospitals that meet federal eligibility criteria. Eight rural hospitals are certified as Critical Access Hospitals and receive enhanced funding through the federal program. These same rural hospitals also provide large amounts of service and care for Medical Assistance recipients. There is no mechanism to provide small rural hospitals with enhanced reimbursement for services to recipients of medical assistance.

### **Summary:**

A Critical Access Hospital Program for medical assistance recipients is established. The Department of Social and Health Services will provide enhanced reimbursement rates for qualifying rural hospitals based on allowable costs incurred during the year.

### **Votes on Final Passage:**

House 98 0  
Senate 48 0 (Senate amended)  
House (House refused to concur)  
Senate (Senate refused to recede)

### First Special Session

House 89 0

Second Special Session

House 86 0

Senate 40 0

**Effective:** September 20, 2001