

GEORGIA TAX CREDIT FOR ELIGIBLE RURAL GEORGIA HOSPITAL ORGANIZATIONS

On Tuesday, April 26, 2016, Governor Nathan Deal signed SB 258, the bill that contained the final negotiated rural hospital tax credit provisions originally introduced by Rep. Geoff Duncan (R-Cumming). Stephens County Hospital is one of the 49 hospital organizations determined eligible to receive donations. The new state income tax credit is aimed toward helping rural hospitals. The program, which will go into effect in January 2017, allows donors to rural hospitals to be eligible for tax credits.

Under the bill, individual Georgia taxpayers who contribute to eligible rural health care facilities can apply for a state income tax credit for either 70 percent of the amount of the contribution to an approved rural hospital, or \$2,500.00, whichever is less. Married couples filing jointly could get a tax credit for 70 percent of the contribution or \$5,000.00, whichever is less. Corporations or fiduciary taxpayers who donate may receive a tax credit up to 70 percent of the amount they contribute or 75 percent of their state income tax liability, whichever is less.

Donations of up to \$4 million to an approved rural hospital will be eligible for the tax credits, which will be awarded on a first come first- serve basis. The tax credits will be in effect annually until the end of 2019. Interested taxpayers must submit an online form to the Georgia Tax Center prior to making a donation. All interested donors are urged to speak to their financial adviser regarding this opportunity. For more information on the tax credit please visit www.dch.georgia.gov/rural-hospital-tax-credit.