
SENATE BILL 6762

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, Keiser, Kohl-Welles, Marr, and Franklin

Read first time 01/23/08. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to a community impact study for hospital
2 conversions; and amending RCW 70.45.080.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.45.080 and 1997 c 332 s 8 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The department shall only approve an application if the acquisition
7 in question will not detrimentally affect the continued existence of
8 accessible, affordable health care that is responsive to the needs of
9 the community in which the hospital to be acquired is located. To this
10 end, the department shall not approve an application unless, at a
11 minimum, it determines that:

12 (1) Sufficient safeguards are included to assure the affected
13 community continued access to affordable care, and that alternative
14 sources of care are available in the community should the acquisition
15 result in a reduction or elimination of particular health services;

16 (2) The acquisition will not result in the revocation of hospital
17 privileges;

18 (3) Sufficient safeguards are included to maintain appropriate

1 capacity for health science research and health care provider
2 education;

3 (4) The acquiring person and parties to the acquisition are
4 committed to providing health care to the disadvantaged, the uninsured,
5 and the underinsured and to providing benefits to promote improved
6 health in the affected community. Activities and funding provided
7 under RCW 70.45.070(8) may be considered in evaluating compliance with
8 this commitment; (~~and~~)

9 (5) Sufficient safeguards are included to avoid conflict of
10 interest in patient referral; and

11 (6) The proposed acquisition will not detrimentally affect the
12 continued existence of accessible, affordable health care responsive to
13 the needs of the community as determined in an independent analysis.
14 The department shall employ, at the expense of the applicant, an
15 independent expert to conduct the analysis. This expense must be in
16 addition to fees charged under RCW 70.45.030.

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