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SENATE BILL 5423

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Pflug and Oemig

Read first time 01/21/09. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to critical access hospitals not subject to  
2 certificate of need reviews; and amending RCW 70.38.105.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.38.105 and 2004 c 261 s 6 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department is authorized and directed to implement the  
7 certificate of need program in this state pursuant to the provisions of  
8 this chapter.

9 (2) There shall be a state certificate of need program which is  
10 administered consistent with the requirements of federal law as  
11 necessary to the receipt of federal funds by the state.

12 (3) No person shall engage in any undertaking which is subject to  
13 certificate of need review under subsection (4) of this section without  
14 first having received from the department either a certificate of need  
15 or an exception granted in accordance with this chapter.

16 (4) The following shall be subject to certificate of need review  
17 under this chapter:

18 (a) The construction, development, or other establishment of a new  
19 health care facility;

1 (b) The sale, purchase, or lease of part or all of any existing  
2 hospital as defined in RCW 70.38.025;

3 (c) Any capital expenditure for the construction, renovation, or  
4 alteration of a nursing home which substantially changes the services  
5 of the facility after January 1, 1981, provided that the substantial  
6 changes in services are specified by the department in rule;

7 (d) Any capital expenditure for the construction, renovation, or  
8 alteration of a nursing home which exceeds the expenditure minimum as  
9 defined by RCW 70.38.025. However, a capital expenditure which is not  
10 subject to certificate of need review under (a), (b), (c), or (e) of  
11 this subsection and which is solely for any one or more of the  
12 following is not subject to certificate of need review:

13 (i) Communications and parking facilities;

14 (ii) Mechanical, electrical, ventilation, heating, and air  
15 conditioning systems;

16 (iii) Energy conservation systems;

17 (iv) Repairs to, or the correction of, deficiencies in existing  
18 physical plant facilities which are necessary to maintain state  
19 licensure, however, other additional repairs, remodeling, or  
20 replacement projects that are not related to one or more deficiency  
21 citations and are not necessary to maintain state licensure are not  
22 exempt from certificate of need review except as otherwise permitted by  
23 (d)(vi) of this subsection or RCW 70.38.115(13);

24 (v) Acquisition of equipment, including data processing equipment,  
25 which is not or will not be used in the direct provision of health  
26 services;

27 (vi) Construction or renovation at an existing nursing home which  
28 involves physical plant facilities, including administrative, dining  
29 areas, kitchen, laundry, therapy areas, and support facilities, by an  
30 existing licensee who has operated the beds for at least one year;

31 (vii) Acquisition of land; and

32 (viii) Refinancing of existing debt;

33 (e) A change in bed capacity of a health care facility which  
34 increases the total number of licensed beds or redistributes beds among  
35 acute care, nursing home care, and boarding home care if the bed  
36 redistribution is to be effective for a period in excess of six months,  
37 or a change in bed capacity of a rural health care facility licensed  
38 under RCW 70.175.100 that increases the total number of nursing home

1 beds or redistributes beds from acute care or boarding home care to  
2 nursing home care if the bed redistribution is to be effective for a  
3 period in excess of six months. A health care facility certified as a  
4 critical access hospital under 42 U.S.C. 1395i-4 may increase its total  
5 number of licensed beds to the total number of beds permitted under 42  
6 U.S.C. 1395i-4 for acute care and may redistribute beds permitted under  
7 42 U.S.C. 1395i-4 among acute care and nursing home care without being  
8 subject to certificate of need review. If there is a nursing home  
9 licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW within twenty-seven miles of the  
10 critical access hospital, the critical access hospital is subject to  
11 certificate of need review except for:

12 (i) Critical access hospitals which had designated beds to provide  
13 nursing home care, in excess of five swing beds, prior to December 31,  
14 2003; (~~(e)~~)

15 (ii) Up to five swing beds; or

16 (iii) Up to twenty-five swing beds for critical access hospitals  
17 which do not have a nursing home licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW  
18 within the same city or town limits.

19 Critical access hospital beds not subject to certificate of need  
20 review under this subsection (4)(e) will not be counted as either acute  
21 care or nursing home care for certificate of need review purposes. If  
22 a health care facility ceases to be certified as a critical access  
23 hospital under 42 U.S.C. 1395i-4, the hospital may revert back to the  
24 type and number of licensed hospital beds as it had when it requested  
25 critical access hospital designation;

26 (f) Any new tertiary health services which are offered in or  
27 through a health care facility or rural health care facility licensed  
28 under RCW 70.175.100, and which were not offered on a regular basis by,  
29 in, or through such health care facility or rural health care facility  
30 within the twelve-month period prior to the time such services would be  
31 offered;

32 (g) Any expenditure for the construction, renovation, or alteration  
33 of a nursing home or change in nursing home services in excess of the  
34 expenditure minimum made in preparation for any undertaking under  
35 subsection (4) of this section and any arrangement or commitment made  
36 for financing such undertaking. Expenditures of preparation shall  
37 include expenditures for architectural designs, plans, working  
38 drawings, and specifications. The department may issue certificates of

1 need permitting predevelopment expenditures, only, without authorizing  
2 any subsequent undertaking with respect to which such predevelopment  
3 expenditures are made; and

4 (h) Any increase in the number of dialysis stations in a kidney  
5 disease center.

6 (5) The department is authorized to charge fees for the review of  
7 certificate of need applications and requests for exemptions from  
8 certificate of need review. The fees shall be sufficient to cover the  
9 full cost of review and exemption, which may include the development of  
10 standards, criteria, and policies.

11 (6) No person may divide a project in order to avoid review  
12 requirements under any of the thresholds specified in this section.

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