

Chapter: 199

Session: 2018 Regular Session

Topic: Hospital modification moratorium exception for Regions Hospital

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Overview

This act establishes an exception to the moratorium on hospital construction or modifications, to allow Regions Hospital to add 55 licensed beds and five unlicensed observation mental health beds to its existing facility. It also establishes deadlines for plan submission and requests for additional information in the public interest review process. A moratorium on hospital construction or modification has been in place since 1984, and exceptions to the moratorium must be approved in law. Since 1984, 28 exceptions to the moratorium have been enacted. A hospital seeking an exception to the moratorium must submit a plan to the commissioner of health, and the commissioner must conduct a public interest review and issue findings on whether the expansion is in the public interest.

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- 1 **Restricted construction or modification.** Amends § 144.551, subd. 1. Current law prohibits the construction of a new hospital and any hospital construction that increases hospital bed capacity or increases or redistributes hospital beds in the state. This section establishes an exception to the moratorium, to allow Regions Hospital in St. Paul (an existing safety net, level I trauma center hospital in Ramsey County) to add 55 licensed beds to its existing facility, 15 of which are to be used for inpatient mental health services. In addition, requires Regions to add five unlicensed observation mental health beds.
- 2 **Public interest review.** Amends § 144.552. Amends the commissioner of health's public interest review of a hospital's request for a moratorium exception, to require:
 - a hospital seeking a moratorium exception to submit its plan to the commissioner by August 1 of the calendar year before the year in which the legislature will consider the exception; and

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- the commissioner to request from the hospital any additional information needed to complete the review no later than 30 days after the hospital submits its plan to the commissioner.