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## Overview

This bill establishes an exception to the moratorium on hospital construction or modifications, to allow Regions Hospital to add 76 licensed beds to its existing facility in two phases. 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, 27 exceptions to the moratorium have been enacted, 11 of these since 2004. 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.

### Section

- 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 76 licensed beds to its existing facility in two phases. Phase one allows the addition of 52 beds, 20 of which are to be used for inpatient mental health services. Within six months after the 20 mental health beds are operational, directs the commissioner to authorize 24 additional hospital beds under phase two.
- 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:

**Section**

- 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
- 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.