

Subject Requirements for hospital physical environment

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Overview

Currently the physical environment requirements for hospitals are found in Minnesota Rules, chapters 4640 and 4645. These rules were originally adopted in the 1950's, and the Health Department uses the current edition of the Facility Guidelines Institute's *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals* as guidance during plan reviews for hospitals. The Facility Guidelines Institute, or FGI, is a nonprofit organization that develops guidance on planning, design, and construction of hospitals, outpatient facilities, and residential facilities. This bill replaces the physical environment requirements in rules with the FGI's guidelines publication and repeals the rules.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Standards for licensure.
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Amends § 144.55, subd. 3. For new licenses, new construction, change of use, or change of occupancy, requires a hospital to meet the minimum standards in the 2022 edition of *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals* from the Facility Guidelines Institute. Establishes a process for the commissioner of health to update the edition of the guidelines publication with which hospitals must comply, and provides compliance with the updated edition shall not be sooner than six months after publication of a notice in the State Register. Requires hospitals to comply with state and local laws, ordinances, and codes for fire safety, building, and zoning. Strikes language authorizing the commissioner to adopt rules establishing standards for new construction. This section is effective August 1, 2023.

2	Request for variance or waiver.
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Amends § 144.6535, subd. 1. Allows a hospital to request a variance or waiver from the standards in the *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals*, and strikes language authorizing a variance or waiver from Minn. Rules ch. 4640 (hospital license and operation) or 4645 (hospital construction and equipment) (the standards in the publication are replacing the design and construction standards currently found in

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	rules, and the rules are being repealed). Also makes conforming changes. This section is effective August 1, 2023.
3	Criteria for evaluation. Amends § 144.6535, subd. 2. Makes changes to conform with the hospital design and construction standards in the <i>Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals</i> replacing the standards in rules, which are being repealed. This section is effective August 1, 2023.
4	Effect of alternative measures or conditions. Amends § 144.6535, subd. 4. Makes changes to conform with the hospital design and construction standards in the <i>Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals</i> replacing the standards in rules, which are being repealed. This section is effective August 1, 2023.
5	Repealer. Repeals the following rules, effective August 1, 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Minnesota Rules, parts 4640.1500-4640.6400 (Hospital licensing and operations rules governing lab and x-ray services; accommodations, furnishings, and equipment for care; food service and food sanitation; physical plant; mental and psychiatric hospitals; and chronic disease hospitals); and▪ Minnesota Rules, parts 4645.0300-4645.5200 (hospital construction and equipment rules governing design and construction; facility requirements for general hospitals and for specialized units in general hospitals; facility requirements for chronic disease hospitals; structural work, mechanical work, electrical, elevator, and service facilities requirements for all hospitals; and requirements for plans and specifications for all hospitals).



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