

By Senator Jones

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to acute care hospitals;  
amending s. 408.043, F.S.; providing for  
certain acute care hospitals in high growth  
counties to add additional beds without the  
approval of the Agency for Health Care  
Administration; providing for notice; providing  
an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 408.043,  
Florida Statutes, to read:

408.043 Special provisions.--

(5) SOLE ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS IN HIGH GROWTH  
COUNTIES.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an  
acute care hospital licensed under chapter 395 may add up to  
180 additional beds without agency review if such hospital is  
located in a county that has experienced at least a 60-percent  
growth rate for the most recent 10-year period for which data  
are available as determined by using the population statistics  
published in the most recent edition of the Florida  
Statistical Abstract, is the sole acute care hospital in the  
county, and is the only acute care hospital within a 10-mile  
radius of another hospital. A hospital shall provide written  
notice to the agency that it qualifies under this subsection  
prior to the addition of beds. Such projects shall not be  
subject to challenge under s. 408.039 or chapter 120. Acute  
care beds added under this subsection shall not be included in  
the inventory of hospital beds used by the agency in the

1 calculation of the fixed-bed-need pool for acute care  
2 hospitals.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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6 SENATE SUMMARY

7 Provides for certain acute care hospitals to add  
8 additional beds without a review by the Agency for Health  
9 Care Administration.

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