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2 An act relating to acute care hospitals;  
3 amending s. 408.043, F.S.; providing for  
4 certain acute care hospitals in high growth  
5 counties to add additional beds without the  
6 approval of the Agency for Health Care  
7 Administration; providing for notice; providing  
8 an effective date.  
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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

14 408.043 Special provisions.--

15 (5) SOLE ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS IN HIGH GROWTH  
16 COUNTIES.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an  
17 acute care hospital licensed under chapter 395 may add up to  
18 180 additional beds without agency review if such hospital is  
19 located in a county that has experienced at least a 60-percent  
20 growth rate for the most recent 10-year period for which data  
21 are available as determined by using the population statistics  
22 published in the most recent edition of the Florida  
23 Statistical Abstract, is the sole acute care hospital in the  
24 county, and is the only acute care hospital within a 10-mile  
25 radius of another hospital. A hospital shall provide written  
26 notice to the agency that it qualifies under this subsection  
27 prior to the addition of beds. Such projects shall not be  
28 subject to challenge under s. 408.039 or chapter 120. Acute  
29 care beds added under this subsection shall not be included in  
30 the inventory of hospital beds used by the agency in the  
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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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