

HB 0773

2004

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to satellite hospital facilities; amending  
 3           s. 408.036, F.S.; providing an exemption from certificate-  
 4           of-need review if a hospital licensed under ch. 395, F.S.,  
 5           transfers up to 100 acute care beds in order to establish  
 6           a satellite hospital facility in the same county as the  
 7           hospital's primary location; requiring the hospital to  
 8           meet specified criteria in order to transfer the acute  
 9           care beds to a satellite facility; prohibiting a hospital  
 10          from establishing a satellite hospital facility if all the  
 11          licensed hospital beds in the county are owned by or  
 12          affiliated with the same corporation; providing an  
 13          effective date.

14  
 15           WHEREAS, the state has the responsibility to ensure that  
 16          health care is available now and in the future throughout the  
 17          state to all its residents, regardless of their socioeconomic  
 18          status or station in life, and

19           WHEREAS, many of the state's residents are underserved for  
 20          their health care needs and rely upon certain hospitals to  
 21          provide them with their health care needs, and

22           WHEREAS, the state recognizes the importance of maintaining  
 23          a system of hospitals throughout the state to ensure that the  
 24          underserved population has access to hospitals when the need  
 25          arises and acknowledges that these hospitals serve a critical  
 26          state purpose in providing this care, and

27           WHEREAS, these hospitals have historically provided  
 28          substantial amounts of Medicaid, charity, and uncompensated care  
 29          to the underserved populations, including the working poor, and

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30 WHEREAS, it is an important state interest to ensure that  
 31 the hospitals continue to provide extraordinary amounts of  
 32 health care services to the state's underserved populations, and

33 WHEREAS, these hospitals have experienced a historically  
 34 low census of patients with the ability to pay for the  
 35 hospital's services, and

36 WHEREAS, these hospitals have been in existence for many  
 37 years and have become geographically place-bound with little  
 38 opportunity to expand beyond their current facility property  
 39 lines, and

40 WHEREAS, it is in the state's best interest to ensure these  
 41 hospitals' financial viability in order to serve an essential  
 42 public purpose by providing care to the underserved, and

43 WHEREAS, it is in the state's interest to ensure that the  
 44 hospitals serving largely underserved populations have the  
 45 ability to broaden and increase their source of commercially or  
 46 other compensated care, and

47 WHEREAS, there is a need for these hospitals to offset the  
 48 economic burdens of being the primary source of care for  
 49 underserved populations, including Medicaid, charity, and  
 50 uncompensated care, with more and a wider variety of patients,  
 51 and

52 WHEREAS, these hospitals need to serve a wider segment of  
 53 the community to increase their census with additional patients  
 54 and payor groups, NOW, THEREFORE,

55  
 56 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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58 Section 1. Paragraph (u) is added to subsection (3) of  
 59 section 408.036, Florida Statutes, to read:

60 408.036 Projects subject to review; exemptions.--

61 (3) EXEMPTIONS.--Upon request, the following projects are  
 62 subject to exemption from the provisions of subsection (1):

63 (u) For the transfer of up to 100 acute care beds in order  
 64 to establish a satellite hospital facility within the same  
 65 county if the hospital licensed under chapter 395 meets the  
 66 following conditions:

67 1. The hospital's census of all licensed acute care beds  
 68 has been below 60 percent for the 5 years prior to the time it  
 69 notifies the agency of its intention to establish the satellite  
 70 hospital facility;

71 2. The hospital's combined gross revenue from Medicaid and  
 72 charity patients exceeds \$60 million per year for the 2 years  
 73 prior to the time it notifies the agency of its intention to  
 74 establish the satellite hospital facility;

75 3. The satellite hospital facility meets all the hospital  
 76 licensure requirements under chapter 395; and

77 4. The satellite hospital facility is limited in size to  
 78 the 100 licensed acute care beds transferred from the existing  
 79 facility.

80  
 81 This paragraph does not apply if all licensed hospital beds in  
 82 the county are owned by or affiliated with the same corporation.

83 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.