

1 WHEREAS, these hospitals do not have the ability to
2 care for patients at alternative sites during natural
3 disasters, and

4 WHEREAS, these hospitals do not have the capital needed
5 to invest in the significant infrastructure costs associated
6 with hurricane damage, and

7 WHEREAS, these hospitals have been in existence for
8 many years and have become geographically place-bound, with
9 little opportunity to expand beyond their current property
10 lines, NOW, THEREFORE,

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
14 Section 1. (1) STUDY COMMISSION.--There is created a
15 study commission to address critical issues relating to
16 hospitals serving indigent populations and licensed under
17 chapter 395, Florida Statutes, which sustained significant
18 damage to their facilities during the 2004 hurricane season.

19 (2) SUBJECT OF STUDY.--

20 (a) The commission shall identify:

21 1. All hospitals that are currently not able to comply
22 with the provisions of the Florida Building Code as defined in
23 chapter 553, Florida Statutes, and any associated
24 administrative rules;

25 2. Hospitals that are located within 10 miles of the
26 coastline; and

27 3. Hospitals that are located in a designated flood
28 zone.

29 (b) The study commission shall make recommendations
30 for allowing these hospitals to find alternative methods of
31 renovating their existing facility in order to meet the

1 requirements of the Florida Building Code, including an
2 evaluation of whether any hospital located in a county that
3 experienced or may experience significant hurricane damage
4 should be exempt from the certificate-of-need process for the
5 purpose of relocating its currently licensed beds to a
6 facility that is not located on the main hospital campus.

7 (c) The commission shall review and determine whether
8 hospitals located within 10 miles of the coastline or in a
9 designated flood zone shall be allowed to have satellite beds
10 for use in the future.

11 (3) REPORT.--The commission shall meet by September 1,
12 2005, and shall submit recommendations, including
13 recommendations for statutory changes, to the Governor, the
14 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives by January 1, 2006. Such recommendations shall
16 also include an evaluation of whether grant funds should be
17 made available to assist hospitals with the cost of
18 reconstructing existing facilities.

19 (4) MEMBERSHIP.--The study commission shall be staffed
20 by the Department of Community Affairs and shall include:

21 (a) The Secretary of Community Affairs, or his or her
22 designee;

23 (b) The Director of the Division of Emergency
24 Management, or his or her designee;

25 (c) The Secretary of Health Care Administration, or
26 his or her designee;

27 (d) The Secretary of Health, or his or her designee;

28 and

29 (e) A director of county emergency management,
30 selected by the Florida Association of Counties.

31

