

2012 -- H 7283

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LC00326  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - THE HOSPITAL CONVERSIONS ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Azzinaro, Brien, Marcello, and McLaughlin

Date Introduced: January 31, 2012

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 23-17.14-19 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-17.14 entitled "The  
2 Hospital Conversions Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **23-17.14-19. Multiple Conversions Permitted. – ~~Limits to acquisitions – Community~~**  
4 **~~benefits requirements – Filings prohibited.~~** (a) ~~In effectuating the purposes of this chapter to~~  
5 ~~evaluate, review and monitor the new phenomenon of for-profit corporations gaining an interest~~  
6 ~~in hospitals and the resulting impact on the delivery of healthcare in the state, limitations on for-~~  
7 ~~profit corporations involved in hospital conversions are necessary.~~

8           ~~(b) No for-profit corporation, or its subsidiaries or affiliates, which applies for and~~  
9 ~~receives approval of a conversion of a hospital in accordance with the provisions of this chapter~~  
10 ~~shall be permitted to apply for approval of a conversion of a second hospital in this state for a~~  
11 ~~period of at least three (3) years after the initial conversion is finalized and implemented. This~~  
12 ~~subsection shall not be deemed to prohibit a for-profit corporation, together with its subsidiaries~~  
13 ~~and affiliates, from applying for or receiving approval of a conversion of two (2) affiliated~~  
14 ~~hospitals in this state provided that: (1) one of the two (2) hospital licenses involved in the~~  
15 ~~conversion was issued prior to July 22, 1997; and (2) this license involves a specialty~~  
16 ~~rehabilitation hospital that has a maximum of ninety (90) beds. A conversion undertaken pursuant~~  
17 ~~to this provision shall be considered one conversion and a for-profit corporation which receives~~  
18 ~~approval for the conversion shall be subject to the three (3) year period between the finalization~~  
19 ~~and implementation of a first conversion and the application for a second conversion as set forth~~

1 ~~in this subsection.~~

2 ~~(c) In the event that a for-profit corporation applies to hold, own, or acquire an~~  
3 ~~ownership or controlling interest greater than twenty percent (20%) in more than one hospital one~~  
4 ~~year subsequent to the finalization and implementation of a prior license, all provisions of this~~  
5 ~~chapter must be met and, in addition to the review process and criteria set forth in this chapter, the~~  
6 ~~department shall have the sole authority and discretion to determine:~~

7 ~~(1) Whether the for-profit corporation provided community benefits as required or~~  
8 ~~promised in connection with obtaining and holding a license or interest therein during the~~  
9 ~~previous license period;~~

10 ~~(2) Whether all terms and conditions of the prior license have been met;~~

11 ~~(3) Whether all federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations have been~~  
12 ~~complied with relative to any prior license;~~

13 ~~(4) Whether the for-profit corporation planned, implemented, monitored and reviewed a~~  
14 ~~community benefit program during the prior license period;~~

15 ~~(5) Whether the for-profit corporation maintained, enhanced or disrupted the essential~~  
16 ~~medical services in the affected community or the state;~~

17 ~~(6) Whether the for-profit corporation provided an appropriate amount of charity care~~  
18 ~~necessary to maintain or enhance a safe and accessible healthcare delivery system in the affected~~  
19 ~~community and the state; and~~

20 ~~(7) Whether the for-profit corporation demonstrated a substantial linkage between the~~  
21 ~~hospital and the affected community by providing one or more of the following benefits;~~  
22 ~~uncompensated care, charity care, cash or in-kind donations to community programs, education~~  
23 ~~and training of professionals in community health issues, relevant research initiatives or essential~~  
24 ~~but unprofitable medical services if needed in the affected community.~~

25 ~~(d) The director may hold a public hearing to solicit input to assess the performance of a~~  
26 ~~for-profit corporation or its affiliates or subsidiaries in providing community benefits in the~~  
27 ~~affected community or the state.~~

28 ~~(e) The director shall have the sole authority to deny a for-profit corporation, its affiliates~~  
29 ~~or subsidiaries, or successors, permission for one or more than one license and, for good cause,~~  
30 ~~may prohibit a for-profit corporation or its affiliates or subsidiaries from filing an application~~  
31 ~~pursuant to this chapter for a period not to exceed ten (10) years.~~

32 Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter or any other public or general law to  
33 the contrary, nothing shall prohibit a for-profit hospital, its subsidiaries or affiliates, from  
34 applying for and receiving approval of a conversion of more than one hospital in the same year or

1 any subsequent year and, provided further, that each such application shall require review and  
2 approval from the department of attorney general and from the department of health in  
3 accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would amend the procedure allowing for-profit hospitals, their subsidiaries  
2 and/or affiliates to apply for and receive approval for conversions of more than one hospital in the  
3 same year or any subsequent year, providing certain requirements are met.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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