



townhall.virginia.gov

Exempt Action Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Virginia Board of Health
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation(s)	12 VAC 5-410-110 and 12 VAC 5-410-130
Regulation title(s)	Regulations for the Licensure of Hospitals in Virginia
Action title	Amend Hospital Regulations to Conform to Chapters 136, 343, 670, and 671 of the 2019 Acts of Assembly
Final agency action date	May 7, 2019
Date this document prepared	April 19, 2019

While a regulatory action may be exempt from executive branch review pursuant to § 2.2-4002 or § 2.2-4006 of the *Code of Virginia*, the agency is still encouraged to provide information to the public on the Regulatory Town Hall using this form. However, the agency may still be required to comply with the Virginia Register Act, Executive Order 14 (as amended, July 16, 2018), the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC7-10), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual for Publication of Virginia Regulations*.

Brief Summary

Please provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

Chapters 136 and 343 of the 2019 Acts of Assembly require the Board of Health to promulgate regulations that “establish an exemption, for a period of no more than 30 days, from the requirement to obtain a license to add temporary beds in an existing hospital or nursing home when the Commissioner has determined that a natural or man-made disaster has caused the evacuation of a hospital or nursing home and that a public health emergency exists due to a shortage of hospital or nursing home beds.” Currently, an increase in hospital bed capacity requires the issuance of a new license.

Chapters 670 and 671 of the 2019 Acts of Assembly require every hospital to “provide written information about the patient’s ability to request an estimate of the payment amount pursuant to [§ 32.1-137.05 of the

Code of Virginia]” and mandates that the information “be posted conspicuously in public areas of the hospital, including admissions or registration areas, and included on any website maintained by the hospital.”

This exempt action is being utilized to conform the regulations (12VAC5-410) to the Code of Virginia.

Mandate and Impetus

Please identify the mandate for this regulatory change, and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, board decision, etc.). “Mandate” is defined as “a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part.”

The mandate for this change is found in Chapters 136, 343, 670, and 671 of the 2019 Acts of Assembly.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) the name of the agency taking the action; and 3) the title of the regulation.

The State Health Commissioner approved this Final Action regarding the Regulations for the Licensure of Hospitals in Virginia, on behalf of the State Board of Health while the board was not in session on May 7, 2019.

**Periodic Review
Small Business Impact Review Report of Findings**

If you are using this form to report the result of a periodic review/small business impact review that is being conducted as part of this regulatory action, and was announced during the proposed stage, please indicate whether the regulatory change meets the criteria set out in Executive Order 14 (as amended, July 16, 2018), e.g., is necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare; minimizes the economic impact on small businesses consistent with the stated objectives of applicable law; and is clearly written and easily understandable.

In addition, as required by § 2.2-4007.1 E and F of the Code of Virginia, include a discussion of the agency’s consideration of: (1) the continued need for the regulation; (2) the nature of complaints or comments received concerning the regulation from the public; (3) the complexity of the regulation; (4) the extent to which the regulation overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with federal or state law or regulation; and (5) the length of time since the regulation has been evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the regulation.

This action is not being used to report the result of a periodic/small business impact review. Pursuant to § 2.2-4006(A)(4)(a) of the Code of Virginia, this action is exempt from Article 2 of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), including § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia.