

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 32.1-126.3 and 36-99.9:1, relating*
3 *to fire suppression systems in hospitals.*

4 [H 2084]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 32.1-126.3 and 36-99.9:1 as**
8 **follows:**9 § 32.1-126.3. *Fire suppression systems required in hospitals.*10 *After January 1, 1998, the Commissioner shall not issue a license to or renew the license of any*
11 *hospital, regardless of when such facility was constructed, unless the hospital is equipped with an*
12 *automatic sprinkler system which complies with the regulations of the Board of Housing and Community*
13 *Development.*14 *The Commissioner may, at his discretion, extend the time for compliance with this section for any*
15 *hospital that can demonstrate its inability to comply, if such hospital submits, prior to January 1, 1998,*
16 *a plan for compliance by a date certain which shall be no later than July 1, 1998.*17 *The provisions of Article 1.1 (§ 32.1-102.1 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of this title shall not apply to*
18 *expenditures required solely for compliance with this section.*19 *For the purposes of this section and § 36-99.9:1, "automatic sprinkler system" means a device for*
20 *suppressing fire in patient rooms and other areas of the hospital customarily used for patient care.*21 § 36-99.9:1. *Standards for fire suppression systems in hospitals.*22 *The Board of Housing and Community Development shall promulgate regulations, to be effective by*
23 *October 1, 1995, in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.), establishing*
24 *standards for automatic sprinkler systems in hospitals, regardless of when such facilities were*
25 *constructed. In the development of these standards, the Board shall seek input from relevant state and*
26 *local agencies as well as affected institutions.*27 *For the purposes of this section and § 32.1-126.3, "automatic sprinkler system" means a device for*
28 *suppressing fire in patient rooms and other areas of the hospital customarily used for patient care.*29 **2. That, notwithstanding the provisions of § 32.1-126.3, any hospital located in a city having a**
30 **population of more than 16,100 but less than 18,000, or in a county having a population of more**
31 **than 17,350 but less than 17,500, may submit a plan of compliance by a date certain which shall**
32 **be no later than July 1, 2003.**

ENROLLED

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