

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-111.7, 32.1-125.1, 32.1-126, 32.1-162.4, 32.1-162.10, and 35.1-22 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Health; frequency of inspections.

[H 2300]

Approved

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 32.1-111.7, 32.1-125.1, 32.1-126, 32.1-162.4, 32.1-162.10, and 35.1-22 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 32.1-111.7. Inspections.**

Each emergency medical services agency for which a license has been issued and emergency medical services vehicle for which a permit has been issued shall be inspected as often as the Commissioner deems necessary and a record thereof shall be maintained. *However, no emergency medical services agency or vehicle shall receive additional inspections until every other emergency medical services agency or vehicle in the Commonwealth has been inspected, unless the additional inspections are (i) necessary to follow up on a preoperational inspection or one or more violations, (ii) required by a uniformly applied risk-based schedule established by the Department, (iii) necessary to investigate a complaint regarding the emergency medical services agency or vehicle, or (iv) otherwise deemed necessary by the Commissioner or his designee to protect the health and safety of the public.* Each such emergency medical services agency or emergency medical services vehicle, its medical supplies and equipment, and the records of its maintenance and operation shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection.

**§ 32.1-125.1. Inspection of hospitals by state agencies generally.**

As used in this section unless the context requires a different meaning, "hospital" means a hospital as defined in § 32.1-123 or 37.2-100.

State agencies shall make or cause to be made only such inspections of hospitals as are necessary to carry out the various obligations imposed on each agency by applicable state and federal laws and regulations. Any on-site inspection by a state agency or a division or unit thereof that substantially complies with the inspection requirements of any other state agency or any other division or unit of the inspecting agency charged with making similar inspections shall be accepted as an equivalent inspection in lieu of an on-site inspection by said agency or by a division or unit of the inspecting agency. A state agency shall coordinate its hospital inspections both internally and with those required by other state agencies so as to ensure that the requirements of this section are met. *No hospital shall receive additional inspections until all other licensed hospitals in the Commonwealth have also been inspected, unless the additional inspections are (i) necessary to follow up on a preoperational inspection or one or more violations, (ii) required by a uniformly applied risk-based schedule established by the Department, (iii) necessary to investigate a complaint regarding the hospital, or (iv) otherwise deemed necessary by the Commissioner or his designee to protect the health and safety of the public.*

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all hospitals licensed by the Department of Health or Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services that have been certified under the provisions of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act for hospital or psychiatric services or that have obtained accreditation from a national accrediting organization granted authority by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to ensure compliance with Medicare conditions of participation pursuant to § 1865 of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1395bb) may be subject to inspections so long as such certification or accreditation is maintained but only to the extent necessary to ensure the public health and safety.

**§ 32.1-126. Commissioner to inspect and to issue licenses to or assure compliance with certification requirements for hospitals, nursing homes and certified nursing facilities; notice of denial of license; consultative advice and assistance; notice to electric utilities.**

A. Pursuant to this article, the Commissioner shall issue licenses to, and assure compliance with certification requirements for hospitals and nursing homes, and assure compliance with certification requirements for facilities owned or operated by agencies of the Commonwealth as defined in subdivision (vi) of § 32.1-124, which after inspection are found to be in compliance with the provisions of this article and with all applicable state and federal regulations. The Commissioner shall notify by certified mail or by overnight express mail any applicant denied a license of the reasons for such denial.

B. The Commissioner shall cause each and every hospital, nursing home, and certified nursing facility to be inspected periodically, but not less often than biennially, in accordance with the provisions

57 of this article and regulations of the Board. *However, except as required by the Centers for Medicare*  
 58 *and Medicaid Services, no hospital, nursing home, or certified nursing facility shall receive additional*  
 59 *inspections until all other hospitals, nursing homes, or certified nursing facilities in the Commonwealth,*  
 60 *respectively, have also been inspected, unless the additional inspections are (i) necessary to follow up*  
 61 *on a preoperational inspection or one or more violations; (ii) required by a uniformly applied*  
 62 *risk-based schedule established by the Department; (iii) necessary to investigate a complaint regarding*  
 63 *the hospital, nursing home, or certified nursing facility; or (iv) otherwise deemed necessary by the*  
 64 *Commissioner or his designee to protect the health and safety of the public.*

65 Unless expressly prohibited by federal statute or regulation, the findings of the Commissioner, with  
 66 respect to periodic surveys of nursing facilities conducted pursuant to the Survey, Certification, and  
 67 Enforcement Procedures set forth in 42 C.F.R. Part 488, shall be considered case decisions pursuant to  
 68 the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) and shall be subject to the Department's informal  
 69 dispute resolution procedures, or, at the option of the Department or the nursing facility, the formal  
 70 fact-finding procedures under § 2.2-4020. The Commonwealth shall be deemed the proponent for  
 71 purposes of § 2.2-4020. Further, notwithstanding the provisions of clause (iii) of subsection A of  
 72 § 2.2-4025, such case decisions shall also be subject to the right to court review pursuant to Article 5  
 73 (§ 2.2-4025 et seq.) of Chapter 40 of Title 2.2.

74 C. The Commissioner may, in accordance with regulations of the Board, provide for consultative  
 75 advice and assistance, with such limitations and restrictions as he deems proper, to any person who  
 76 intends to apply for a hospital or nursing home license or nursing facility certification.

77 D. For the purpose of facilitating the prompt restoration of electrical service and prioritization of  
 78 customers during widespread power outages, the Commissioner shall notify on a quarterly basis all  
 79 electric utilities serving customers in Virginia as to the location of all nursing homes licensed in the  
 80 Commonwealth. The requirements of this subsection shall be met if the Commissioner maintains such  
 81 information on an electronic database accessible by electric utilities serving customers in Virginia.

82 **§ 32.1-162.4. Inspections.**

83 The Commissioner may cause each hospice licensed under this article to be periodically inspected at  
 84 reasonable times. *However, no hospice shall receive additional inspections until all other hospices in the*  
 85 *Commonwealth have also been inspected, unless the additional inspections are (i) necessary to follow up*  
 86 *on a preoperational inspection or one or more violations, (ii) required by a uniformly applied risk-based*  
 87 *schedule established by the Department, (iii) necessary to investigate a complaint regarding the hospice,*  
 88 *or (iv) otherwise deemed necessary by the Commissioner or his designee to protect the health and safety*  
 89 *of the public.*

90 Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provision of this article, any hospice organization that has  
 91 obtained accreditation as provided in subdivision 2 of § 32.1-162.2, may be subject to inspection so long  
 92 as such accreditation is maintained but only to the extent necessary to ensure the public health and  
 93 safety. If any such hospice fails to comply with the provisions of this article or with the regulations of  
 94 the Board relating to public health and safety, the Commissioner may revoke the exemption from  
 95 licensure and require such hospice to be relicensed before it can again qualify for an exemption pursuant  
 96 to § 32.1-162.2.

97 **§ 32.1-162.10. Inspections; fees.**

98 State agencies shall make or cause to be made only such inspections of home care organizations as  
 99 are necessary to carry out the various obligations imposed on each agency by applicable state and  
 100 federal laws and regulations. *However, no home care organization shall receive additional inspections*  
 101 *until all other home care organizations in the Commonwealth have also been inspected, unless the*  
 102 *additional inspections are (i) necessary to follow up on a preoperational inspection or one or more*  
 103 *violations, (ii) required by a uniformly applied risk-based schedule established by the Department, (iii)*  
 104 *necessary to investigate a complaint regarding the home care organization, or (iv) otherwise deemed*  
 105 *necessary by the Commissioner or his designee to protect the health and safety of the public.*

106 Any on-site inspection by a state agency or a division or unit thereof that substantially complies with  
 107 the inspection requirements of any other state agency or any other division or unit of the inspecting  
 108 agency charged with making similar inspections shall be accepted as an equivalent inspection in lieu of  
 109 an on-site inspection by said agency or by a division or unit of the inspecting agency. A state agency  
 110 shall coordinate its inspections of home care organizations both internally and with those required by  
 111 other state agencies so as to ensure that the requirements of this section are met.

112 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all home care organizations licensed by the  
 113 Department of Health that have been certified under the provisions of Title XVIII of the Social Security  
 114 Act for home care services or have obtained accreditation by any organization recognized by the Centers  
 115 for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the purposes of Medicare certification may be subject to  
 116 inspection so long as such accreditation or certification is maintained but only to the extent necessary to  
 117 ensure the public health and safety. If any such home care organization fails to comply with the

118 provisions of this article or with the regulations of the Board relating to public health and safety, the  
119 Commissioner is authorized to revoke the exemption from licensure and require such organization to be  
120 relicensed before it can again qualify for an exemption pursuant to § 32.1-162.8.

121 **§ 35.1-22. Periodic inspections.**

122 The Commissioner shall cause each restaurant, summer camp, and campground in the  
123 Commonwealth to be inspected at least annually, with no more than 12 months elapsing between each  
124 such inspection, in accordance with applicable provisions of this title and the regulations of the Board.  
125 *However, no restaurant, summer camp, or campground shall receive additional inspections until all*  
126 *other restaurants, summer camps, or campgrounds in that locality, as defined in § 15.2-102,*  
127 *respectively, have also been inspected, unless the additional inspections are (i) necessary to follow up*  
128 *on a preoperational inspection or one or more violations; (ii) required by a uniformly applied*  
129 *risk-based schedule established by the Department; (iii) necessary to investigate a complaint regarding*  
130 *the restaurant, summer camp, or campground; or (iv) otherwise deemed necessary by the Commissioner*  
131 *or his designee to protect the health and safety of the public.*

132 The Commissioner, as he deems appropriate, shall cause each hotel in the Commonwealth to be  
133 inspected in accordance with applicable provisions of this title and the regulations of the Board.  
134 *However, no hotel shall receive additional inspections until all other hotels in that locality, as defined in*  
135 *§ 15.2-102, have also been inspected, unless the additional inspections are (a) necessary to follow up on*  
136 *a preoperational inspection or one or more violations, (b) required by a uniformly applied risk-based*  
137 *schedule established by the Department, (c) necessary to investigate a complaint regarding the hotel, or*  
138 *(d) otherwise deemed necessary by the Commissioner or his designee to protect the health and safety of*  
139 *the public.*

140 If at any time the Commissioner finds that a hotel, restaurant, summer camp, or campground is not  
141 in compliance with applicable provisions of this title or regulations of the Board, he may revoke or  
142 suspend the license of that hotel, restaurant, summer camp, or campground.