

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2019 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 839

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-102.2, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, and 32.1-102.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to certificate of public need; charity care.

[H 2766]

Approved April 3, 2019

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 32.1-102.2, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, and 32.1-102.4 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-102.2. (Effective until July 1, 2019) Regulations.

A. The Board shall promulgate regulations which are consistent with this article and:

1. Shall establish concise procedures for the prompt review of applications for certificates consistent with the provisions of this article which may include a structured batching process which incorporates, but is not limited to, authorization for the Commissioner to request proposals for certain projects. In any structured batching process established by the Board, applications, combined or separate, for computed tomographic (CT) scanning, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomographic (PET) scanning, radiation therapy, stereotactic radiotherapy, proton beam therapy, or nuclear imaging shall be considered in the radiation therapy batch. A single application may be filed for a combination of (i) radiation therapy, stereotactic radiotherapy and proton beam therapy, and (ii) any or all of the computed tomographic (CT) scanning, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomographic (PET) scanning, and nuclear medicine imaging;

2. May classify projects and may eliminate one or more or all of the procedures prescribed in § 32.1-102.6 for different classifications;

3. May provide for exempting from the requirement of a certificate projects determined by the Commissioner, upon application for exemption, to be subject to the economic forces of a competitive market or to have no discernible impact on the cost or quality of health services;

4. Shall establish specific criteria for determining need in rural areas, giving due consideration to distinct and unique geographic, socioeconomic, cultural, transportation, and other barriers to access to care in such areas and providing for weighted calculations of need based on the barriers to health care access in such rural areas in lieu of the determinations of need used for the particular proposed project within the relevant health systems area as a whole;

5. May establish, on or after July 1, 1999, a schedule of fees for applications for certificates to be applied to expenses for the administration and operation of the certificate of public need program. Such fees shall not be less than \$1,000 nor exceed the lesser of one percent of the proposed expenditure for the project or \$20,000. Until such time as the Board shall establish a schedule of fees, such fees shall be one percent of the proposed expenditure for the project; however, such fees shall not be less than \$1,000 or more than \$20,000; ~~and~~

6. Shall establish an expedited application and review process for any certificate for projects reviewable pursuant to subdivision 8 of the definition of "project" in § 32.1-102.1. Regulations establishing the expedited application and review procedure shall include provisions for notice and opportunity for public comment on the application for a certificate, and criteria pursuant to which an application that would normally undergo the review process would instead undergo the full certificate of public need review process set forth in § 32.1-102.6; *and*

7. *Shall require every medical care facility subject to the requirements of this article, other than a nursing home, that is not a medical care facility for which a certificate with conditions imposed pursuant to subsection F of § 32.1-102.4 has been issued and that provides charity care, as defined in § 32.1-102.1, to annually report the amount of charity care provided.*

B. The Board shall promulgate regulations providing for time limitations for schedules for completion and limitations on the exceeding of the maximum capital expenditure amount for all reviewable projects. The Commissioner shall not approve any such extension or excess unless it complies with the Board's regulations. However, the Commissioner may approve a significant change in cost for an approved project that exceeds the authorized capital expenditure by more than 20 percent, provided the applicant has demonstrated that the cost increases are reasonable and necessary under all the circumstances and do not result from any material expansion of the project as approved.

C. The Board shall also promulgate regulations authorizing the Commissioner to condition approval of a certificate on the agreement of the applicant to provide a level of care at a reduced rate to indigents or accept patients requiring specialized care. In addition, the Board's licensure regulations shall direct the Commissioner to condition the issuing or renewing of any license for any applicant whose certificate was approved upon such condition on whether such applicant has complied with any agreement to

provide a level of care at a reduced rate to indigents or accept patients requiring specialized care.

§ 32.1-102.2. (Effective July 1, 2019) Regulations.

The Board shall promulgate regulations that are consistent with this article and:

1. Shall establish concise procedures for the prompt review of applications for certificates consistent with the provisions of this article which may include a structured batching process which incorporates, but is not limited to, authorization for the Commissioner to request proposals for certain projects. In any structured batching process established by the Board, applications, combined or separate, for computed tomographic (CT) scanning, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomographic (PET) scanning, radiation therapy, stereotactic radiotherapy, proton beam therapy, or nuclear imaging shall be considered in the radiation therapy batch. A single application may be filed for a combination of (i) radiation therapy, stereotactic radiotherapy and proton beam therapy, and (ii) any or all of the computed tomographic (CT) scanning, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomographic (PET) scanning, and nuclear medicine imaging;

2. May classify projects and may eliminate one or more or all of the procedures prescribed in § 32.1-102.6 for different classifications;

3. May provide for exempting from the requirement of a certificate projects determined by the Commissioner, upon application for exemption, to be subject to the economic forces of a competitive market or to have no discernible impact on the cost or quality of health services;

4. Shall establish specific criteria for determining need in rural areas, giving due consideration to distinct and unique geographic, socioeconomic, cultural, transportation, and other barriers to access to care in such areas and providing for weighted calculations of need based on the barriers to health care access in such rural areas in lieu of the determinations of need used for the particular proposed project within the relevant health systems area as a whole;

5. May establish, on or after July 1, 1999, a schedule of fees for applications for certificates to be applied to expenses for the administration and operation of the certificate of public need program. Such fees shall not be less than \$ 1,000 nor exceed the lesser of one percent of the proposed expenditure for the project or \$ 20,000. Until such time as the Board shall establish a schedule of fees, such fees shall be one percent of the proposed expenditure for the project; however, such fees shall not be less than \$ 1,000 or more than \$ 20,000; ~~and~~

6. Shall establish an expedited application and review process for any certificate for projects reviewable pursuant to subdivision 8 of the definition of "project" in § 32.1-102.1. Regulations establishing the expedited application and review procedure shall include provisions for notice and opportunity for public comment on the application for a certificate, and criteria pursuant to which an application that would normally undergo the review process would instead undergo the full certificate of public need review process set forth in § 32.1-102.6; *and*

7. *Shall require every medical care facility subject to the requirements of this article, other than a nursing home, that is not a medical care facility for which a certificate with conditions imposed pursuant to subsection F of § 32.1-102.4 has been issued and that provides charity care, as defined in § 32.1-102.1, to annually report the amount of charity care provided.*

B. The Board shall promulgate regulations providing for time limitations for schedules for completion and limitations on the exceeding of the maximum capital expenditure amount for all reviewable projects. The Commissioner shall not approve any such extension or excess unless it complies with the Board's regulations. However, the Commissioner may approve a significant change in cost for an approved project that exceeds the authorized capital expenditure by more than 20 percent, provided the applicant has demonstrated that the cost increases are reasonable and necessary under all the circumstances and do not result from any material expansion of the project as approved.

C. The Board shall also promulgate regulations authorizing the Commissioner to condition approval of a certificate on the agreement of the applicant to provide a level of charity care to indigent persons or accept patients requiring specialized care. In addition, the Board's licensure regulations shall direct the Commissioner to condition the issuing or renewing of any license for any applicant whose certificate was approved upon such condition on whether such applicant has complied with any agreement to provide a level of charity care to indigent persons or accept patients requiring specialized care. Except in the case of nursing homes, the value of charity care provided to individuals pursuant to this subsection shall be based on the provider reimbursement methodology utilized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for reimbursement under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1395 et seq.

§ 32.1-102.4. Conditions of certificates; monitoring; revocation of certificates.

A. A certificate shall be issued with a schedule for the completion of the project and a maximum capital expenditure amount for the project. The schedule may not be extended and the maximum capital expenditure may not be exceeded without the approval of the Commissioner in accordance with the regulations of the Board.

B. The Commissioner shall monitor each project for which a certificate is issued to determine its progress and compliance with the schedule and with the maximum capital expenditure. The Commissioner shall also monitor all continuing care retirement communities for which a certificate is

issued authorizing the establishment of a nursing home facility or an increase in the number of nursing home beds pursuant to § 32.1-102.3:2 and shall enforce compliance with the conditions for such applications which are required by § 32.1-102.3:2. Any willful violation of a provision of § 32.1-102.3:2 or conditions of a certificate of public need granted under the provisions of § 32.1-102.3:2 shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$100 per violation per day until the date the Commissioner determines that such facility is in compliance.

C. A certificate may be revoked when:

1. Substantial and continuing progress towards completion of the project in accordance with the schedule has not been made;

2. The maximum capital expenditure amount set for the project is exceeded;

3. The applicant has willfully or recklessly misrepresented intentions or facts in obtaining a certificate; or

4. A continuing care retirement community applicant has failed to honor the conditions of a certificate allowing the establishment of a nursing home facility or granting an increase in the number of nursing home beds in an existing facility which was approved in accordance with the requirements of § 32.1-102.3:2.

D. Further, the Commissioner shall not approve an extension for a schedule for completion of any project or the exceeding of the maximum capital expenditure of any project unless such extension or excess complies with the limitations provided in the regulations promulgated by the Board pursuant to § 32.1-102.2.

E. Any person willfully violating the Board's regulations establishing limitations for schedules for completion of any project or limitations on the exceeding of the maximum capital expenditure of any project shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$100 per violation per day until the date of completion of the project.

F. (Effective until July 1, 2019) The Commissioner may condition, pursuant to the regulations of the Board, the approval of a certificate (i) upon the agreement of the applicant to provide a level of care at a reduced rate to indigents or accept patients requiring specialized care or (ii) upon the agreement of the applicant to facilitate the development and operation of primary medical care services in designated medically underserved areas of the applicant's service area.

The certificate holder shall provide documentation to the Department demonstrating that the certificate holder has satisfied the conditions of the certificate. If the certificate holder is unable or fails to satisfy the conditions of a certificate, the Department may approve alternative methods to satisfy the conditions pursuant to a plan of compliance. The plan of compliance shall identify a timeframe within which the certificate holder will satisfy the conditions of the certificate, and identify how the certificate holder will satisfy the conditions of the certificate, which may include ~~(i)~~ (a) making direct payments to an organization authorized under a memorandum of understanding with the Department to receive contributions satisfying conditions of a certificate, ~~(ii)~~ (b) making direct payments to a private nonprofit foundation that funds basic insurance coverage for indigents authorized under a memorandum of understanding with the Department to receive contributions satisfying conditions of a certificate, or ~~(iii)~~ (c) other documented efforts or initiatives to provide primary or specialized care to underserved populations. In cases in which the certificate holder holds more than one certificate with conditions pursuant to this subsection, and the certificate holder is unable to satisfy the conditions of one certificate, such plan of compliance may provide for satisfaction of the conditions on that certificate by providing care at a reduced rate to indigent individuals in excess of the amount required by another certificate issued to the same holder, in an amount approved by the Department provided such care is offered at the same facility. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall prohibit the satisfaction of conditions of more than one certificate among various affiliated facilities or certificates subject to a system-wide or all-inclusive charity care condition established by the Commissioner. In determining whether the certificate holder has met the conditions of the certificate pursuant to a plan of compliance, only such direct payments, efforts, or initiatives made or undertaken after issuance of the conditioned certificate shall be counted towards satisfaction of conditions.

Any person willfully refusing, failing, or neglecting to honor such agreement shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$100 per violation per day until the date of compliance.

F. (Effective July 1, 2019) The Commissioner may condition, pursuant to the regulations of the Board, the approval of a certificate (i) upon the agreement of the applicant to provide a level of charity care to indigent persons or accept patients requiring specialized care or (ii) upon the agreement of the applicant to facilitate the development and operation of primary medical care services in designated medically underserved areas of the applicant's service area. Except in the case of nursing homes, the value of charity care provided to individuals pursuant to this subsection shall be based on the provider reimbursement methodology utilized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for reimbursement under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1395 et seq.

The certificate holder shall provide documentation to the Department demonstrating that the certificate holder has satisfied the conditions of the certificate, including documentation of the amount of charity care provided to patients. If the certificate holder is unable or fails to satisfy the conditions of a

certificate, the Department may approve alternative methods to satisfy the conditions pursuant to a plan of compliance. The plan of compliance shall identify a timeframe within which the certificate holder will satisfy the conditions of the certificate, and identify how the certificate holder will satisfy the conditions of the certificate, which may include (a) making direct payments to an organization authorized under a memorandum of understanding with the Department to receive contributions satisfying conditions of a certificate, (b) making direct payments to a private nonprofit foundation that funds basic insurance coverage for indigents authorized under a memorandum of understanding with the Department to receive contributions satisfying conditions of a certificate, or (c) other documented efforts or initiatives to provide primary or specialized care to underserved populations. In cases in which the certificate holder holds more than one certificate with conditions pursuant to this subsection, and the certificate holder is unable to satisfy the conditions of one certificate, such plan of compliance may provide for satisfaction of the conditions on that certificate by providing care at a reduced rate to indigent individuals in excess of the amount required by another certificate issued to the same holder, in an amount approved by the Department provided such care is offered at the same facility. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall prohibit the satisfaction of conditions of more than one certificate among various affiliated facilities or certificates subject to a system-wide or all-inclusive charity care condition established by the Commissioner. In determining whether the certificate holder has met the conditions of the certificate pursuant to a plan of compliance, only such direct payments, efforts, or initiatives made or undertaken after issuance of the conditioned certificate shall be counted towards satisfaction of conditions.

Any person willfully refusing, failing, or neglecting to honor such agreement shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$100 per violation per day until the date of compliance.

G. The Commissioner shall (i) review every certificate of public need upon which conditions were imposed pursuant to subsection F at least once every three years to determine whether such conditions continue to be appropriate or should be revised and (ii) notify each certificate holder of his conclusions regarding (a) the appropriateness of conditions imposed on the certificate and whether such conditions should be revised and (b) the process by which the certificate holder may request amendments to conditions imposed on a certificate in accordance with subsection H.

H. Pursuant to regulations of the Board, the Commissioner may accept requests for and approve amendments to conditions of existing certificates related to the provision of care at reduced rates or to patients requiring specialized care or related to the development and operation of primary medical care services in designated medically underserved areas of the certificate holder's service area.

~~H.~~ *I.* For the purposes of this section, "completion" means conclusion of construction activities necessary for the substantial performance of the contract.