

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 32.1-126.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to fire suppression systems*  
3 *in hospitals.*

4 [H 2562]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 32.1-126.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 32.1-126.3. Fire suppression systems required in hospitals.

9 After January 1, 1998, the Commissioner shall not issue a license to or renew the license of any  
10 hospital, regardless of when such facility was constructed, unless the hospital is equipped with an  
11 automatic sprinkler system which complies with the regulations of the Board of Housing and  
12 Community Development.

13 The Commissioner may, at his discretion, extend the time for compliance with this section for any  
14 hospital that can demonstrate (i) its inability to comply, if such hospital submits, prior to January 1,  
15 1998, a plan for compliance by a date certain which shall be no later than July 1, 1998, or (ii) that  
16 construction is underway for a new facility to house the services currently located in the noncomplying  
17 facility and that such construction will be completed and the noncomplying facility relocated by  
18 December 31, 1998.

19 The provisions of Article 1.1 (§ 32.1-102.1 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of this title shall not apply to  
20 expenditures required solely for compliance with this section.

21 For the purposes of this section and § 36-99.9:1, "automatic sprinkler system" means a device for  
22 suppressing fire in patient rooms and other areas of the hospital customarily used for patient care.

ENROLLED

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