

Senate Bill No. 1568

An act relating to acute care hospitals; amending s. 408.043, F.S.; providing for certain acute care hospitals in high growth counties to add additional beds without the approval of the Agency for Health Care Administration; providing for notice; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 408.043, Florida Statutes, to read:

408.043 Special provisions.—

(5) SOLE ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS IN HIGH GROWTH COUNTIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an acute care hospital licensed under chapter 395 may add up to 180 additional beds without agency review if such hospital is located in a county that has experienced at least a 60-percent growth rate for the most recent 10-year period for which data are available as determined by using the population statistics published in the most recent edition of the Florida Statistical Abstract, is the sole acute care hospital in the county, and is the only acute care hospital within a 10-mile radius of another hospital. A hospital shall provide written notice to the agency that it qualifies under this subsection prior to the addition of beds. Such projects shall not be subject to challenge under s. 408.039 or chapter 120. Acute care beds added under this subsection shall not be included in the inventory of hospital beds used by the agency in the calculation of the fixed-bed-need pool for acute care hospitals.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

Approved by the Governor June 20, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 20, 2003.