

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 56

An act relating to health care; amending s. 408.036, F.S.; providing an exemption from certificate-of-need requirements for certain open-heart-surgery programs; providing criteria for qualifying for the exemption; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to report to the Legislature; providing for expiration of the exemption; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (t) is added to subsection (3) of section 408.036, Florida Statutes, to read:

408.036 Projects subject to review; exemptions.—

(3) EXEMPTIONS.—Upon request, the following projects are subject to exemption from the provisions of subsection (1):

(t)1. For an adult open-heart-surgery program to be located in a new hospital provided the new hospital is being established in the location of an existing hospital with an adult open-heart-surgery program, the existing hospital and the existing adult open-heart-surgery program are being relocated to a replacement hospital, and the replacement hospital will utilize a closed-staff model. A hospital is exempt from the certificate-of-need review for the establishment of an open-heart-surgery program if the application for exemption submitted under this paragraph complies with the following criteria:

a. The applicant must certify that it will meet and continuously maintain the minimum Florida Administrative Code and any future licensure requirements governing adult open-heart programs adopted by the agency, including the most current guidelines of the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association Guidelines for Adult Open Heart Programs.

b. The applicant must certify that it will maintain sufficient appropriate equipment and health personnel to ensure quality and safety.

c. The applicant must certify that it will maintain appropriate times of operation and protocols to ensure availability and appropriate referrals in the event of emergencies.

d. The applicant is a newly licensed hospital in a physical location previously owned and licensed to a hospital performing more than 300 open-heart procedures each year, including heart transplants.

e. The applicant must certify that it can perform more than 300 diagnostic cardiac catheterization procedures per year, combined inpatient and outpatient, by the end of the third year of it's operation.

f. The applicant's payor mix at a minimum reflects the community average for Medicaid, charity care, and self-pay patients or the applicant must certify that it will provide a minimum of 5 percent of Medicaid, charity care, and self-pay to open-heart-surgery patients.

g. If the applicant fails to meet the established criteria for open-heart programs or fails to reach 300 surgeries per year by the end of its third year of operation, it must show cause why its exemption should not be revoked.

h. In order to ensure continuity of available services, the applicant of the newly licensed hospital may apply for this certificate-of-need before taking possession of the physical facilities. The effective date of the certificate-of-need will be concurrent with the effective date of the newly issued hospital license.

2. By December 31, 2004, and annually thereafter, the agency shall submit a report to the Legislature providing information concerning the number of requests for exemption received under this paragraph and the number of exemptions granted or denied.

3. This paragraph is repealed effective January 1, 2008.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor July 11, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State July 11, 2003.