



Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

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Summary HB 1190 PN 1607

This legislation permits a hospital survey conducted by a national accreditation organization to stand in lieu of a licensure renewal survey by the Department of Health (DOH).

Hospitals eligible to request deemed status are those hospitals which are currently licensed by the DOH for a minimum period of three years never having a provisional or restricted license and are accredited by a DOH approved accreditation organization.

Accreditation organizations may be approved by the DOH if they:

- Maintain standards equal to or in excess of those of the DOH;
- Meet DOH thresholds to ensure the integrity of the survey process; and
- Enter into a written agreement with the DOH regarding issues of notice, collaboration and confidentiality.
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Hospitals which are not eligible or do not request deemed status shall be surveyed by the DOH for purposes of licensure renewal. This also applies to hospitals receiving less than full accreditation. All new construction and renovations of facilities must receive DOH approval before offering services.

Once a hospital is deemed, it must adhere to the standards set by the national accreditation organization. Licenses of deemed hospitals in good standing will expire on the last day of the month in which the accreditation is current and the license is issued. Other hospital licenses will be for a term of three years and expire on the last day of the month in which the license is issued.

A final report by an accreditation organization of a hospital's substantial compliance with their standards shall be evidence that the hospital has met the DOH's requirements. This report must be provided to the DOH within ten business days of the receipt by the hospital and must be issued no more than one year prior to the expiration date of the hospital license.

The DOH shall make final reports immediately available to the public. Such reports shall not be admissible in a civil action.

The DOH may participate in or observe any survey by an accreditation organization and retains all rights to inspect a hospital to follow up on concerns,

reports and complaints. DOH may also inspect for purposes of validating findings and at the request of other regulatory entities.

If an accreditation organization fails to meet its statutory obligations, the DOH has 30 days from the time it notifies the accreditation organization of its failure to meet requirements to resolve any issues. If, after 30 days, the accreditation organization is still noncompliant, the DOH shall provide notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the intent to withdraw approval. The notice must include the reasons action is being taken, the accreditation organization's response and opportunity for public comment of not less than 30 days.

After the expiration of the 30 days, the DOH may make a final determination that the accreditation organization has failed to meet its obligations and withdraw approval. Hospitals achieving deemed status through such an accreditation organization shall keep the status until the end of the current licensure period. License renewals shall be conducted by another approved accreditation organization or the DOH.

This bill also includes language defining an extreme emergency for purposes of exceeding the number of inpatient beds approved in a hospital's license.

Amendment A02185

- Adds a definition of survey
- Provides for the time period when a hospital's accreditation cycle and licensure cycle may not be aligned
- Clarifies that the DOH makes the survey report available to the public
- Makes other technical and clarifying changes

Effective Date

This act shall take effect in 180 days.