

1 AN ACT relating to certificate of need.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 216B.040 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) The cabinet shall have four (4) separate and distinct functions in administering this  
5 chapter:
- 6 (a) To approve or deny certificates of need in accordance with the provisions of  
7 this chapter, except as to those applications which have been granted  
8 nonsubstantive review status by the cabinet;
- 9 (b) To issue and to revoke certificates of need;
- 10 (c) To provide a due process hearing and issue a final determination on all actions  
11 by the cabinet to deny, revoke, modify, or suspend licenses of health facilities  
12 and health services issued by the cabinet; and
- 13 (d) To enforce, through legal actions on its own motion, the provisions of this  
14 chapter and its orders and decisions issued pursuant to its functions.
- 15 (2) The cabinet shall:
- 16 (a) Promulgate administrative regulations pursuant to the provisions of KRS  
17 Chapter 13A:
- 18 1. To establish the certificate of need review procedures, including but not  
19 limited to, application procedures, notice provisions, procedures for  
20 review of completeness of applications, and timetables for review  
21 cycles.
- 22 2. To establish criteria for issuance and denial of certificates of need which  
23 shall be limited to the following considerations:
- 24 a. Consistency with plans. Each proposal approved by the cabinet  
25 shall be consistent with the state health plan, and shall be subject  
26 to biennial budget authorizations and limitations, and with  
27 consideration given to the proposal's impact on health care costs in

1 the Commonwealth. The state health plan shall contain a need  
2 assessment for long-term care beds, which shall be based on a  
3 statistically valid analysis of the present and future needs of the  
4 state as a whole and counties individually. The need assessment  
5 shall be applied uniformly to all areas of the state. The  
6 methodology shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.  
7 The long-term care bed need criteria in the state health plan or as  
8 set forth by the appropriate certificate of need authority shall give  
9 preference to conversion of personal care beds and acute care beds  
10 to nursing facility beds, so long as the state health plan or the  
11 appropriate certificate of need authority establishes a need in the  
12 affected counties and the proposed conversions are more cost-  
13 effective than new construction. The fact that the state health plan  
14 shall not address the specific type of proposal being reviewed shall  
15 not constitute grounds for disapproval of the proposal.  
16 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the long-term care  
17 bed need criteria in the state health plan or as set forth by the  
18 appropriate certificate of need authority shall not consider, factor  
19 in, or include any continuing care retirement community's nursing  
20 home beds established under KRS 216B.015, 216B.020,  
21 216B.330, and 216B.332;

22 b. Need and accessibility. The proposal shall meet an identified need  
23 in a defined geographic area and be accessible to all residents of  
24 the area. A defined geographic area shall be defined as the area the  
25 proposal seeks to serve, including its demographics, and shall not  
26 be limited to geographical boundaries;

27 c. Interrelationships and linkages. The proposal shall serve to

- 1 accomplish appropriate and effective linkages with other services,  
2 facilities, and elements of the health care system in the region and  
3 state, accompanied by assurance of effort to achieve  
4 comprehensive care, proper utilization of services, and efficient  
5 functioning of the health care system;
- 6 d. Costs, economic feasibility, and resources availability. The  
7 proposal, when measured against the cost of alternatives for  
8 meeting needs, shall be judged to be an effective and economical  
9 use of resources, not only of capital investment, but also ongoing  
10 requirements for health manpower and operational financing;
- 11 e. Quality of services. The applicant shall be prepared to and capable  
12 of undertaking and carrying out the responsibilities involved in the  
13 proposal in a manner consistent with appropriate standards and  
14 requirements assuring the provision of quality health care services,  
15 as established by the cabinet; **and**
- 16 f. Hospital-based skilled nursing, intermediate care, and personal  
17 care beds shall be considered by the cabinet in determining the  
18 need for freestanding long-term care beds; **and**[-]
- 19 (b) Conduct public hearings, as requested **by applicants for or holders of**  
20 **certificates of need and licenses**, in respect to certificate-of-need applications,  
21 revocations of certificates of need, and denials, suspensions, modifications, or  
22 revocations of licenses.
- 23 (3) The cabinet may:
- 24 (a) Issue other administrative regulations necessary for the proper administration  
25 of this chapter;
- 26 (b) Administer oaths, issue subpoenas, subpoenas duces tecum, and all necessary  
27 process in proceedings brought before or initiated by the cabinet, and the

1 process shall extend to all parts of the Commonwealth. Service of process in  
2 all proceedings brought before or initiated by the cabinet may be made by  
3 certified mail, or in the same manner as other process in civil cases, as the  
4 cabinet directs;

5 (c) Establish by promulgation of administrative regulation under KRS Chapter  
6 13A reasonable application fees for certificates of need;

7 (d) Establish a mechanism for issuing advisory opinions to prospective applicants  
8 for certificates of need regarding the requirements of a certificate of need; and

9 (e) Establish a mechanism for biennial review of projects for compliance with the  
10 terms of the certificate of need.

11 ➔Section 2. KRS 216B.062 is amended to read as follows:

12 (1) Applications for certificates of need shall be submitted according to timetables  
13 established by the cabinet by promulgation of administrative regulation, pursuant to  
14 the provisions of KRS Chapter 13A. The application for a certificate of need shall  
15 include the name and business address of any owner, investor, or stockholder in the  
16 project whose ownership interest is greater than ten percent (10%). Once an  
17 application has been deemed complete pursuant to the cabinet's administrative  
18 regulations, notice shall be given as provided by the regulations of the beginning of  
19 the review, the proposed review schedule, and the right *of applicants* to request a  
20 hearing. The review shall be deemed to commence on the date of notice. No review  
21 shall take longer than ninety (90) days from the commencement of the review  
22 unless the applicant agrees to a deferral of action.

23 (2) Applications proposing the same or similar types of services, facilities, or  
24 equipment shall be batched for review purposes, excluding those granted  
25 nonsubstantive review status. The cabinet shall by promulgation of administrative  
26 regulation under KRS Chapter 13A establish appropriate batching groups to assure  
27 that applications for each type of service, facility, or equipment will be eligible for

1 consideration at set intervals. In each review batch, the cabinet shall review and, if  
2 appropriate, compare all timely-filed applications proposing similar types of  
3 services, facilities, or equipment in the same health service areas.

4 ➔Section 3. KRS 216B.085 is amended to read as follows:

- 5 (1) **Within fifteen (15) days of a cabinet decision regarding an application for a**  
6 **certificate of need, an applicant**~~[Any time no later than fifteen (15) days after the~~  
7 ~~date the review commences, any affected person]~~ may request a public hearing.  
8 Hearings shall be before a person designated by the secretary to serve as hearing  
9 officer. The hearing officer shall be authorized to administer oaths, issue subpoenas,  
10 subpoenas duces tecum, and all necessary process in the proceedings.
- 11 (2) If a hearing is requested, the secretary shall set a date, time, and place for a public  
12 hearing. Reasonable notice of the hearing shall be given to **applicants**~~[all affected~~  
13 ~~persons]~~ in accordance with administrative regulations promulgated by the cabinet.
- 14 (3) At the hearing, **applicants**~~[any party to the proceedings]~~ shall have the right to be  
15 represented by counsel, and to present oral or written arguments and evidence  
16 relevant to the matter which is the subject of the hearing~~[, and may conduct~~  
17 ~~reasonable cross-examination under oath of persons who make factual allegations~~  
18 ~~relevant to such matters]~~. A full and complete record shall be maintained of the  
19 hearing.
- 20 (4) Any decision of the cabinet to issue or deny a certificate of need shall be based  
21 solely on the record established with regard to the matter. All decisions granting,  
22 denying, or modifying a certificate of need shall be made by the cabinet in writing.  
23 The cabinet shall notify the **applicant**~~[parties to the proceedings]~~ of the decision  
24 and the decision shall be final for purposes of judicial appeal unless a request for  
25 reconsideration is filed **by the applicant**. An approved certificate of need shall be  
26 issued forty (40) days after notice of the cabinet's decision~~[ unless a request for~~  
27 ~~reconsideration is filed or a judicial appeal is taken and issuance is enjoined by the~~

1 court].

2 ➔Section 4. KRS 216B.090 is amended to read as follows:

- 3 (1) Applicants~~[Any party to the proceedings]~~ may, for good cause shown, request in  
4 writing a hearing for purposes of reconsideration of a decision of the cabinet  
5 pertaining to a certificate of need or the revocation of a certificate of need under  
6 procedures promulgated by administrative regulation. The request shall be filed  
7 within fifteen (15) days of the notice of the decision. For purposes of this section  
8 there shall be deemed to be "good cause shown" if the request for a public hearing:
- 9 (a) Presents significant, relevant information not previously available for  
10 consideration by the cabinet;
  - 11 (b) Demonstrates that there have been significant changes in the factors or  
12 circumstances relied upon by the cabinet in reaching its decision; or
  - 13 (c) Demonstrates that the cabinet has materially failed to follow its adopted  
14 procedures in reaching its decision; ~~or~~
  - 15 ~~(d) States that a public hearing pursuant to KRS 216B.085 was not conducted~~  
16 ~~prior to a decision to deny a certificate of need].~~

- 17 (2) If a public hearing is granted, it shall be held within thirty (30) days after the  
18 decision to grant the request for reconsideration. The hearing shall be conducted in  
19 accordance with the provisions of this chapter. The cabinet shall make its decision  
20 on reconsideration and shall give notice thereof. The decision of the cabinet shall be  
21 final for purposes of judicial appeal. An approved certificate of need shall be issued  
22 forty (40) days after notice of the cabinet's decision unless a judicial appeal is taken  
23 and issuance is enjoined by the court.

24 ➔Section 5. KRS 216B.095 is amended to read as follows:

- 25 (1) An applicant may waive the procedures for formal review of an application for a  
26 certificate of need and request a nonsubstantive review as provided below. The  
27 cabinet may grant or deny nonsubstantive review status within ten (10) days of the

1        date the application is deemed completed ~~and shall give notice to all affected~~  
2        ~~persons of the decision to conduct a nonsubstantive review~~. Any affected person  
3        other than the applicant may request a hearing by filing a request with the cabinet  
4        within ten (10) days of the notice to conduct a nonsubstantive review. As  
5        applicable, hearings shall be conducted as provided in KRS 216B.085. Based solely  
6        upon the record established with regard to the matter, the cabinet shall approve or  
7        deny a certificate of need on all projects assigned nonsubstantive review status  
8        within thirty-five (35) days of the determination of nonsubstantive review status. If  
9        the application is denied nonsubstantive review status, it shall automatically be  
10       placed in the formal review process.

11       (2) If a certificate of need is denied following a nonsubstantive review, the applicant  
12       may request that the application be placed in the next cycle of the formal review  
13       process. Nothing in this subsection shall require an applicant to pursue a formal  
14       review before obtaining judicial review pursuant to KRS 216B.115.

15       (3) The cabinet may grant nonsubstantive review status to an application for a  
16       certificate of need which is required:

17                (a) To change the location of a proposed health facility;

18                (b) To replace or relocate a licensed health facility, if there is no substantial  
19                change in health services or substantial change in bed capacity;

20                (c) To replace or repair worn equipment if the worn equipment has been used by  
21                the applicant in a health facility for five (5) years or more;

22                (d) For cost escalations; or

23                (e) In other circumstances the cabinet by administrative regulation may prescribe.

24       (4) Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary in this chapter, the cabinet may  
25       approve a certificate of need for a project required for the purposes set out in  
26       subsection (3)(a) to (e) of this section, unless it finds the facility or service with  
27       respect to which the capital expenditure is proposed to be made is not required; or

1 to the extent the facility or services contemplated by the proposed capital  
2 expenditure is addressed in the state health plan, the cabinet finds that the capital  
3 expenditure is not consistent with the state health plan.

4 (5) The decision of the cabinet approving or denying a certificate of need pursuant to  
5 this section shall be final for purposes of judicial appeal, unless the applicant  
6 requests the application be placed in the formal review process. An approved  
7 certificate shall be issued thirty (30) days after notice of the cabinet's decision,  
8 unless a judicial appeal is taken and issuance is enjoined by the court.

9 (6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cabinet shall not grant  
10 nonsubstantive review status to a certificate of need application that indicates an  
11 intent to apply for Medicaid certification of nursing home beds within a continuing  
12 care retirement community established under KRS 216B.015, 216B.020, 216B.330,  
13 and 216B.332.

14 (7) Notwithstanding any provision of state law or the state health plan promulgated by  
15 administrative regulation in accordance with KRS 216B.040, the cabinet shall grant  
16 nonsubstantive review for a certificate of need proposal to establish an ambulatory  
17 surgical center if the applicant complies with the following:

18 (a) The applicant is an ambulatory surgical center that was organized and in  
19 operation as the private office of a physician or physician group prior to  
20 October 1, 2006;

21 (b) 1. The cabinet's general counsel has submitted a letter to the Accreditation  
22 Association for Ambulatory Health Care advising that the cabinet does  
23 not object to the applicant's parent company applying for and obtaining  
24 Medicare certification; or

25 2. The applicant is an ambulatory surgical center that has received from the  
26 cabinet a favorable advisory opinion dated June 14, 2005, confirming  
27 that the applicant would be exempt from the certificate of need or

1 licensure requirement;

2 (c) The applicant's ambulatory surgical center has been inspected and accredited  
3 by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care since December  
4 31, 2006, and has maintained accreditation with that organization consistently  
5 since that time; and

6 (d) The applicant was a party to litigation concerning the ambulatory surgical  
7 center and physician office issue and, prior to July 12, 2012, obtained a Court  
8 of Appeals ruling in its favor.

9 ➔Section 6. KRS 216B.115 is amended to read as follows:

10 (1) An appeal to the Franklin Circuit Court may be taken from any final decision of the  
11 cabinet with respect to a certificate-of-need application, a certificate of need, or a  
12 license, by an applicant~~{any party to the proceedings}~~.

13 (2) An appeal may be taken by filing a petition for review in the Franklin Circuit Court  
14 within thirty (30) days after notice of the final decision unless a request for  
15 reconsideration has been filed, in which case the petition shall be filed within  
16 fifteen (15) days of the cabinet's decision not to reconsider or notice of its decision  
17 on reconsideration. The petition shall state completely the grounds upon which the  
18 review is sought and shall assign all errors relied upon. The petitioner shall serve a  
19 copy of the petition to each person who was a party to the proceedings. Summons  
20 shall be issued upon the petition directing the adverse party or parties to file an  
21 answer within twenty (20) days after service of summons. The cabinet shall, upon  
22 being served with the summons and within thirty (30) days thereafter, file a copy of  
23 the record, duly certified by the secretary, the cost of the record to be taxed as costs  
24 upon appeal. In lieu of filing of the record, an abstract thereof may be filed if all  
25 parties to the appeal agree.