

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.020 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The provisions of this chapter that relate to the issuance of a certificate of need shall  
5 not apply to abortion facilities as defined in KRS 216B.015; any hospital which  
6 does not charge its patients for hospital services and does not seek or accept  
7 Medicare, Medicaid, or other financial support from the federal government or any  
8 state government; assisted living residences; family care homes; state veterans'  
9 nursing homes; services provided on a contractual basis in a rural primary-care  
10 hospital as provided under KRS 216.380; community mental health centers for  
11 services as defined in KRS Chapter 210; primary care centers; rural health clinics;  
12 private duty nursing services operating as health care services agencies as defined  
13 in KRS 216.718; group homes; licensed residential crisis stabilization units;  
14 licensed free-standing residential substance use disorder treatment programs~~[with~~  
15 ~~sixteen (16) or fewer beds, but not including Levels I and II psychiatric residential~~  
16 ~~treatment facilities or licensed psychiatric inpatient beds];~~ outpatient behavioral  
17 health treatment, ~~[but not ]~~including partial hospitalization programs; **psychiatric**  
18 **hospitals; physical rehabilitation hospitals; chemical dependency programs or**  
19 **centers; hospices; home health agencies; kidney disease treatment centers;**  
20 **freestanding hemodialysis units; alcohol abuse, drug abuse, rehabilitative, and**  
21 **mental health services;** end stage renal disease dialysis facilities, freestanding or  
22 hospital based; swing beds; special clinics, including but not limited to wellness,  
23 weight loss, family planning, disability determination, speech and hearing,  
24 counseling, pulmonary care, and other clinics which only provide diagnostic  
25 services with equipment not exceeding the major medical equipment cost threshold  
26 and for which there are no review criteria in the state health plan; nonclinically  
27 related expenditures; nursing home beds that shall be exclusively limited to on-

1 campus residents of a certified continuing care retirement community; home health  
2 services provided by a continuing care retirement community to its on-campus  
3 residents; the relocation of hospital administrative or outpatient services into  
4 medical office buildings which are on or contiguous to the premises of the hospital;  
5 the relocation of acute care beds which occur among acute care hospitals under  
6 common ownership and which are located in the same area development district so  
7 long as there is no substantial change in services and the relocation does not result  
8 in the establishment of a new service at the receiving hospital for which a certificate  
9 of need is required; the redistribution of beds by licensure classification within an  
10 acute care hospital so long as the redistribution does not increase the total licensed  
11 bed capacity of the hospital; residential hospice facilities established by licensed  
12 hospice programs; the following health services provided on site in an existing  
13 health facility when the cost is less than six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000)  
14 and the services are in place by December 30, 1991: psychiatric care where  
15 chemical dependency services are provided, level one (1) and level two (2) of  
16 neonatal care, cardiac catheterization, and open heart surgery where cardiac  
17 catheterization services are in place as of July 15, 1990; or ambulance services  
18 operating in accordance with subsection (6), (7), or (8) of this section. These listed  
19 facilities or services shall be subject to licensure, when applicable.

20 (2) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the licensure, supervision,  
21 regulation, or control in any manner of:

22 (a) Private offices and clinics of physicians, dentists, and other practitioners of  
23 the healing arts, except any physician's office that meets the criteria set forth  
24 in KRS 216B.015(5) or that meets the definition of an ambulatory surgical  
25 center as set out in KRS 216B.015;

26 (b) Office buildings built by or on behalf of a health facility for the exclusive use  
27 of physicians, dentists, and other practitioners of the healing arts; unless the

- 1 physician's office meets the criteria set forth in KRS 216B.015(5), or unless  
2 the physician's office is also an abortion facility as defined in KRS 216B.015,  
3 except no capital expenditure or expenses relating to any such building shall  
4 be chargeable to or reimbursable as a cost for providing inpatient services  
5 offered by a health facility;
- 6 (c) Outpatient health facilities or health services that:
- 7 1. Do not provide services or hold patients in the facility after midnight;  
8 and  
9 2. Are exempt from certificate of need and licensure under subsection (3)  
10 of this section;
- 11 (d) Dispensaries and first-aid stations located within business or industrial  
12 establishments maintained solely for the use of employees, if the facility does  
13 not contain inpatient or resident beds for patients or employees who generally  
14 remain in the facility for more than twenty-four (24) hours;
- 15 (e) Establishments, such as motels, hotels, and boarding houses, which provide  
16 domiciliary and auxiliary commercial services, but do not provide any health  
17 related services and boarding houses which are operated by persons  
18 contracting with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for  
19 boarding services;
- 20 (f) The remedial care or treatment of residents or patients in any home or  
21 institution conducted only for those who rely solely upon treatment by prayer  
22 or spiritual means in accordance with the creed or tenets of any recognized  
23 church or religious denomination and recognized by that church or  
24 denomination; and
- 25 (g) On-duty police and fire department personnel assisting in emergency  
26 situations by providing first aid or transportation when regular emergency  
27 units licensed to provide first aid or transportation are unable to arrive at the

1 scene of an emergency situation within a reasonable time.

2 (3) The following outpatient categories of care shall be exempt from certificate of need  
3 and licensure on July 14, 2018:

4 (a) Primary care centers;

5 (b) Special health clinics, unless the clinic provides pain management services  
6 and is located off the campus of the hospital that has majority ownership  
7 interest;

8 (c) Specialized medical technology services, unless providing a State Health Plan  
9 service;

10 (d) Retail-based health clinics and ambulatory care clinics that provide  
11 nonemergency, noninvasive treatment of patients;

12 (e) Ambulatory care clinics treating minor illnesses and injuries;

13 (f) Mobile health services, unless providing a service in the State Health Plan;

14 (g) Rehabilitation agencies;

15 (h) Rural health clinics; and

16 (i) Off-campus, hospital-acquired physician practices.

17 (4) The exemptions established by subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall not  
18 apply to the following categories of care:

19 (a) An ambulatory surgical center as defined by KRS 216B.015(4);

20 (b) A health facility or health service that provides one (1) of the following types  
21 of services:

22 1. Cardiac catheterization;

23 2. Megavoltage radiation therapy;

24 3. Adult day health care;

25 4. ~~Behavioral health services;~~

26 5. ~~Chronic renal dialysis;~~

27 6. ~~Birthing services; or~~

- 1           ~~5.17.7~~Emergency services above the level of treatment for minor illnesses or  
2           injuries;
- 3           (c) A pain management facility as defined by KRS 218A.175(1);
- 4           (d) An abortion facility that requires licensure pursuant to KRS 216B.0431; or
- 5           (e) A health facility or health service that requests an expenditure that exceeds the  
6           major medical expenditure minimum.
- 7           (5) An existing facility licensed as an intermediate care or nursing home shall notify  
8           the cabinet of its intent to change to a nursing facility as defined in Public Law 100-  
9           203. A certificate of need shall not be required for conversion of an intermediate  
10          care or nursing home to the nursing facility licensure category.
- 11          (6) Ambulance services owned and operated by a city government, which propose to  
12          provide services in coterminous cities outside of the ambulance service's designated  
13          geographic service area, shall not be required to obtain a certificate of need if the  
14          governing body of the city in which the ambulance services are to be provided  
15          enters into an agreement with the ambulance service to provide services in the city.
- 16          (7) Ambulance services owned by a hospital shall not be required to obtain a certificate  
17          of need for the sole purpose of providing non-emergency and emergency transport  
18          services originating from its hospital.
- 19          (8) (a) As used in this subsection, "emergency ambulance transport services" means  
20          the transportation of an individual that has an emergency medical condition  
21          with acute symptoms of sufficient severity that the absence of immediate  
22          medical attention could reasonably be expected to place the individual's health  
23          in serious jeopardy or result in the serious impairment or dysfunction of the  
24          individual's bodily organs.
- 25          (b) A city or county government that has conducted a public hearing for the  
26          purposes of demonstrating that an imperative need exists in the city or county  
27          to provide emergency ambulance transport services within its jurisdictional

1 boundaries shall not be required to obtain a certificate of need for the city or  
2 county to:

- 3 1. Directly provide emergency ambulance transport services as defined in  
4 this subsection within the city's or county's jurisdictional boundaries; or
- 5 2. Enter into a contract with a hospital or hospitals within its jurisdiction,  
6 or within an adjoining county if there are no hospitals located within the  
7 county, for the provision of emergency ambulance transport services as  
8 defined in this subsection within the city's or county's jurisdictional  
9 boundaries.

10 (c) Any license obtained under KRS Chapter 311A by a city or county for the  
11 provision of ambulance services operating under a certificate of need  
12 exclusion pursuant to this subsection shall be held exclusively by the city or  
13 county government and shall not be transferrable to any other entity.

14 (d) Prior to obtaining the written agreement of a city, an ambulance service  
15 operating under a county government certificate of need exclusion pursuant to  
16 this subsection shall not provide emergency ambulance transport services  
17 within the boundaries of any city that:

- 18 1. Possesses a certificate of need to provide emergency ambulance  
19 services;
- 20 2. Has an agency or department thereof that holds a certificate of need to  
21 provide emergency ambulance services; or
- 22 3. Is providing emergency ambulance transport services within its  
23 jurisdictional boundaries pursuant to this subsection.

24 (9) (a) Except where a certificate of need is not required pursuant to subsection (6),  
25 (7), or (8) of this section, the cabinet shall grant nonsubstantive review for a  
26 certificate of need proposal to establish an ambulance service that is owned by  
27 a:

- 1           1.    City government;
  - 2           2.    County government; or
  - 3           3.    Hospital, in accordance with paragraph (b) of this subsection.
- 4           (b) A notice shall be sent by the cabinet to all cities and counties that a certificate  
5           of need proposal to establish an ambulance service has been submitted by a  
6           hospital. The legislative bodies of the cities and counties affected by the  
7           hospital's certificate of need proposal shall provide a response to the cabinet  
8           within thirty (30) days of receiving the notice. The failure of a city or county  
9           legislative body to respond to the notice shall be deemed to be support for the  
10          proposal.
- 11          (c) An ambulance service established under this subsection shall not be  
12          transferred to another entity that does not meet the requirements of paragraph  
13          (a) of this subsection without first obtaining a substantive certificate of need.
- 14          (10) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a continuing care retirement  
15          community's nursing home beds shall not be certified as Medicaid eligible unless a  
16          certificate of need has been issued authorizing applications for Medicaid  
17          certification. The provisions of subsection (5) of this section notwithstanding, a  
18          continuing care retirement community shall not change the level of care licensure  
19          status of its beds without first obtaining a certificate of need.
- 20          (11) An ambulance service established under subsection (9) of this section shall not be  
21          transferred to an entity that does not qualify under subsection (9) of this section  
22          without first obtaining a substantive certificate of need.
- 23          (12) (a) The provisions of subsections (7), (8), and (9) of this section shall expire on  
24          July 1, 2026.
- 25          (b) All actions taken by cities, counties, and hospitals, exemptions from obtaining  
26          a certificate of need, and any certificate of need granted under subsections (7),  
27          (8), and (9) of this section prior to July 1, 2026, shall remain in effect on and

1 after July 1, 2026.

2 →Section 2. KRS 216B.065 is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) *As used in this section:*

4 *(a) "Health facility" does not include psychiatric hospitals, physical*  
5 *rehabilitation hospitals, chemical dependency programs or centers,*  
6 *hospices, community mental health centers, home health agencies, kidney*  
7 *disease treatment centers, or freestanding hemodialysis units; and*

8 *(b) "Health services" does not include alcohol abuse, drug abuse,*  
9 *rehabilitative, or mental health.*

10 (2) Before any person enters into a contractual agreement to acquire a licensed health  
11 facility, the person shall notify the cabinet of the intent to acquire the facility or  
12 major medical equipment and of the services to be offered in the facility and its bed  
13 capacity or the use of the medical equipment. The notice shall be in writing and  
14 shall be filed at least thirty (30) days prior to entry into a contract to acquire the  
15 health facility or major medical equipment with respect to which the notice is given.

16 ~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ A certificate of need shall be required for the acquisition of a health facility or  
17 major medical equipment, only if:

18 (a) The notice required in this section is not filed and the arrangement will  
19 require the obligation of a capital expenditure which exceeds the capital  
20 expenditure minimum; or

21 (b) The cabinet finds within thirty (30) days after the date it received notice that  
22 the health services or bed capacity of the health facility will be substantially  
23 changed in being acquired.

24 ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ Donations, transfers, and leases of major medical equipment and health  
25 facilities shall be considered acquisitions of equipment and facilities, and an  
26 acquisition of medical equipment or a facility for less than fair market value shall  
27 be considered an acquisition if the fair market value exceeds the expenditure

1 minimum.

2 ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ Before any health facility reduces or terminates a health service or reduces its  
3 bed capacity, the facility shall notify the cabinet of its intent. The notice shall be in  
4 writing and shall be filed at least thirty (30) days prior to the reduction or  
5 termination. A certificate of need shall be required for the reduction or termination  
6 only if the notice required in this section is not filed.

7 ~~(6)~~~~(5)~~ (a) Before acquiring or constructing an acute care hospital as defined in  
8 KRS 216B.0425 that is required to be licensed under KRS 216B.042, the  
9 University of Kentucky or the University of Louisville, or a medical system or  
10 college or school of medicine affiliate thereof, shall first obtain the approval  
11 of the General Assembly by means of an act or joint resolution explicitly  
12 identifying and authorizing the acquisition or construction of the specific  
13 acute care hospital.

14 (b) The approval required under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be in  
15 addition to any certificate of need required to acquire or construct an acute  
16 care hospital.

17 (c) 1. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted or construed to apply to a  
18 pediatric teaching hospital as defined in KRS 205.565.

19 2. Paragraph (a) of this subsection shall not apply to the acquisition or  
20 construction of an acute care hospital within thirty (30) miles of the  
21 affiliated university's primary academic campus.

22 3. After May 31, 2026, the acquisition or construction of an acute care  
23 hospital valued at less than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) shall be  
24 exempt from the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection.

25 ➔Section 3. KRS 216.380 is amended to read as follows:

26 (1) The licensure category of critical access hospital is hereby created for existing  
27 licensed acute-care hospitals which qualify under this section for that status.

- 1 (2) It shall be unlawful to operate or maintain a critical access hospital without first  
2 obtaining a license from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. An acute-care  
3 hospital converting to a critical access hospital shall not require a certificate of  
4 need. A certificate of need shall not be required for services provided on a  
5 contractual basis in a critical access hospital. A certificate of need shall not be  
6 required for an existing critical access hospital to increase its acute-care bed  
7 capacity to twenty-five (25) beds.
- 8 (3) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, only a hospital licensed as a  
9 general acute-care hospital may be relicensed as a critical access hospital if:
- 10 (a) The hospital is located in a county in a rural area that is:
- 11 1. Located more than a thirty-five (35) mile drive, or, where the terrain is  
12 mountainous or only secondary roads are available, located more than a  
13 fifteen (15) mile drive, from another acute-care hospital or critical  
14 access hospital; or
- 15 2. Certified by the secretary as a necessary provider of health care services  
16 to area residents;
- 17 (b) For the purposes of paragraph (a) of this subsection, a hospital shall be  
18 considered to be located in a rural area if the hospital is not in a county which  
19 is part of a standard metropolitan statistical area, the hospital is located in a  
20 rural census tract of a metropolitan statistical area as determined under the  
21 most recent modification of the Goldsmith Modification, or is designated by  
22 the state as a rural provider. The secretary shall designate a hospital as a rural  
23 provider if the hospital is not located in a county which has the largest county  
24 population of a standard metropolitan statistical area;
- 25 (c) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this subsection, the hospital provides  
26 not more than twenty-five (25) acute care inpatient beds for providing acute  
27 inpatient care for a period that does not exceed, as determined on an annual,

- 1 average basis, ninety-six (96) hours;
- 2 (d) If the hospital is operating swing beds under which the hospital's inpatient  
3 hospital facilities are used for the provision of extended care services, the  
4 hospital may be designated as a critical access hospital so long as the total  
5 number of beds that may be used at any time for furnishing of either extended  
6 care services or acute inpatient services does not exceed twenty-five (25)  
7 beds. For the purposes of this section, any bed of a unit of the hospital that is  
8 licensed as a nursing facility at the time the hospital applies to the state for  
9 designation as a critical care access hospital shall not be counted.
- 10 (4) The secretary for health and family services may designate a facility as a critical  
11 access hospital if the facility:
- 12 (a) Was a hospital that ceased operations on or after ten (10) years prior to April  
13 21, 2000; or
- 14 (b) Was a hospital that was converted to a licensed ambulatory health center or  
15 other type of licensed health clinic or health center and, as of the effective  
16 date of that conversion, meets the criteria for licensure as a critical access  
17 hospital under this subsection or subsection (3) of this section.
- 18 (5) A critical access hospital shall provide the following services:
- 19 (a) Twenty-four (24) hour emergency-room care that the secretary determines is  
20 necessary for insuring access to emergency care services in each area served  
21 by a critical access hospital; and
- 22 (b) Basic laboratory, radiologic, pharmacy, and dietary services. These services  
23 may be provided on a part-time, off-site contractual basis.
- 24 (6) A critical access hospital may provide the following services:
- 25 (a) Swing beds or a distinct unit of the hospital which is a nursing facility in  
26 accordance with KRS Chapter 216B and subject to approval under certificate  
27 of need;

- 1 (b) Surgery;
- 2 (c) Normal obstetrics;
- 3 (d) Primary care;
- 4 (e) Adult day health care;
- 5 (f) Respite care;
- 6 (g) Rehabilitative and therapeutic services including, but not limited to, physical
- 7 therapy, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, and
- 8 audiology, which may be provided on an off-site contractual basis;
- 9 (h) Ambulatory care;
- 10 (i) Home health services~~[ which may be established upon obtaining a certificate~~
- 11 ~~of need]~~; and
- 12 (j) Mobile diagnostic services with equipment not exceeding the major medical
- 13 equipment cost threshold pursuant to KRS Chapter 216B and for which there
- 14 are no review criteria in the State Health Plan.
- 15 (7) In addition to the services that may be provided under subsection (6) of this section,
- 16 a critical access hospital may establish the following units in accordance with
- 17 applicable Medicare regulations and subject to certificate of need approval:
- 18 (a) A psychiatric unit that is a distinct part of the hospital, with a maximum of ten
- 19 (10) beds; and
- 20 (b) A rehabilitation unit that is a distinct part of the hospital, with a maximum of
- 21 ten (10) beds notwithstanding any other bed limit contained in law or
- 22 regulation.
- 23 (8) Psychiatric unit and rehabilitation unit beds operated under subsection (7) of this
- 24 section shall not be counted in determining the number of beds or the average
- 25 length of stay of a critical access hospital for purposes of applying the bed and
- 26 average length of stay limitations under paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of this
- 27 section.

- 1 (9) The following staffing plan shall apply to a critical access hospital:
- 2 (a) The hospital shall meet staffing requirements as would apply under section
- 3 1861(e) of Title XVIII of the Federal Social Security Act to a hospital located
- 4 in a rural area except that:
- 5 1. The hospital need not meet hospital standards relating to the number of
- 6 hours during a day, or days during a week, in which the hospital shall be
- 7 open and fully staffed, except insofar as the facility is required to make
- 8 available emergency services and nursing services available on a
- 9 twenty-four (24) hour basis; and
- 10 2. The hospital need not otherwise staff the facility except when an
- 11 inpatient is present; and
- 12 (b) Physician assistants and nurse practitioners may provide inpatient care within
- 13 the limits of their statutory scope of practice and with oversight by a physician
- 14 who is not required to be on-site at the hospital.
- 15 (10) A critical access hospital shall have a quality assessment and performance
- 16 improvement program and procedures for review of utilization of services.
- 17 (11) A critical access hospital shall have written contracts assuring the following
- 18 linkages:
- 19 (a) Secondary and tertiary hospital referral services which shall provide for the
- 20 transfer of a patient to the appropriate level of care and the transfer of patients
- 21 to the critical access hospital for recuperative care;
- 22 (b) Ambulance services;
- 23 (c) Home health services; and
- 24 (d) Nursing facility services if not provided on-site.
- 25 (12) If the critical access hospital is part of a rural health network, the hospital shall have
- 26 the following:
- 27 (a) An agreement for patient referral and transfer, development, and use of

1           communications systems including telemetry and electronic sharing of patient  
2           data, and emergency and nonemergency transportation; and

3           (b) An agreement for credentialing and quality assurance with a network hospital,  
4           peer review organization, or other appropriate and qualified entity identified  
5           in the state rural health plan.

6           (13) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services and any insurer or managed care  
7           program for Medicaid recipients that contracts with the Department for Medicaid  
8           Services for the receipt of Federal Social Security Act Title XIX funds shall provide  
9           for reimbursement of services provided to Medicaid recipients in a critical access  
10          hospital at rates that are at least equal to those established by the Federal Health  
11          Care Financing Administration or Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for  
12          Medicare reimbursement to a critical access hospital.

13          (14) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall promulgate administrative  
14          regulations pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A necessary to implement this section.