



# SENATE BILL 42: Reduce Cost & Reg. Burden/Hosp. Construction.

2017-2018 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Health Care. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	March 8, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Hise, Krawiec, Pate	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jennifer Mundt
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Committee Staff

**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 42 would direct the North Carolina Medical Care Commission to adopt the recommendations of the American Society of Healthcare Engineers Facility Guidelines Institute.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The North Carolina Medical Care Commission adopts and implements rules for hospital licensure. The rules in 10A NCAC 13B .6000 et. seq. include physical plant and construction requirements for hospital facilities.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 42 would do the following:

- Direct the Medical Care Commission to repeal a suite of rules that regulate licensing of hospitals pertaining to physical plant, general requirements, and construction requirements (Hospital Facilities Rules) within 120 days of the act becoming law.
- Direct the Commission to replace those particular rules with temporary (and subsequently permanent) rules by incorporating, by reference, all the applicable standards, rules, and requirements of the most current edition of the American Society for Healthcare Engineering's Facility Guidelines Institute *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals and Outpatient Facilities* (Guidelines).
- Provide that the rules adopted to replace the Hospital Facilities Rules with the Guidelines would be exempt from the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Act) under Chapter 150B of the General Statutes that require the preparation of fiscal notes.
- Provide that until the Hospital Facilities Rules are repealed and replaced by the Guidelines, the Hospital Facilities Rules would not be subject to the statutory periodic rules review required by the Act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective when it becomes law and would apply to any licensee or prospective applicant who seeks to make specified types of alterations or additions to its hospital facilities or to construct new hospital facilities who submits plans and specifications to the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to the Hospital Licensure Act on or after January 1, 2016.

**BACKGROUND:** According to the American Hospital Association and the American Society for Healthcare Engineering, the *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals and Outpatient Facilities* provide minimum standards for design and construction of hospitals and outpatient facilities. Included in the *Guidelines* is information on the planning, design, construction, and commissioning process and facility requirements for both hospitals and outpatient facilities.

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