



# SENATE BILL 445: Reg. Relief for Hospitals in Disaster Zones.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 10, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sen. Jarvis	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jason Moran-Bates
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Committee Staff

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 445 would automatically waive or modify rules of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission to conform to waived or modified federal rules during declared emergencies.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Under G.S. 131E-84, during times of declared emergencies, the Division of Health Service Regulation may (i) waive any rules of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission pertaining to hospitals or (ii) allow hospitals to increase bed capacity.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 445 would automatically modify or waive rules for the regulations of hospitals to conform to corresponding federal rule waivers or modifications in an emergency area during times of declared emergencies. The waiver or modification would remain in effect at least until the corresponding federal waiver or modification expired. This would not be construed to prohibit the Division of Health Service Regulation from further waiving or modifying any rules.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill would be effective when it becomes law.

**BACKGROUND:** Under 42 U.S.C. § 1320b-5 (Section 1135 of the Social Security Act) and 42 U.S.C. § 1395d (Section 1812 of the Social Security Act), the Secretary of Health and Human Services has broad authority to waive federal rules for healthcare facilities in times of emergency if it is necessary to do so to ensure "that sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of individuals [in emergency zones who are enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid, or the State Children's Health Insurance Program]."

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