

8034--A

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

June 17, 2013

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Introduced by M. of A. ABINANTI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions -- recommitted to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to authorizing the Westchester health care corporation to enter into agreements for the creation and operation of a health care delivery system network

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 3301 of the public authorities law is amended by  
2     adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:  
3     6. AS A FREE-STANDING PUBLIC HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, THE CORPORATION IS  
4     AT A COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE IN THE CURRENT AND EMERGING HEALTH CARE  
5     ENVIRONMENT, YET IT CANNOT BECOME PART OF A LARGER SYSTEM OF CORPORATE  
6     ENTITIES WHILE MAINTAINING ITS PUBLIC STATUS. SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN  
7     THE PUBLIC ASSETS OF THE CORPORATION AND ITS EFFORTS TO PROVIDE HIGH  
8     QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS ARE  
9     JEOPARDIZED BY THE CORPORATION'S INABILITY TO COMPETE ON ITS OWN AND BY  
10    POTENTIAL LIMITS ON ITS ABILITY TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND  
11    PRIVATE PROVIDERS, ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS. THE STATE FINDS THAT THE  
12    BENEFITS OF COLLABORATION BY THE CORPORATION OUTWEIGH ANY ADVERSE IMPACT  
13    ON COMPETITION. THE BENEFITS OF THE CORPORATION'S COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS  
14    INCLUDE PRESERVING AND EXPANDING NEEDED HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN ITS  
15    PRIMARY SERVICE AREA; CONSOLIDATING UNNEEDED OR DUPLICATIVE HEALTH CARE  
16    SERVICES; ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF, AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO, HEALTH CARE  
17    DELIVERED TO MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS; LOWERING COSTS AND  
18    IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE HEALTH CARE SERVICES IT DELIVERS; AND  
19    ACHIEVING IMPROVED REIMBURSEMENT FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL PAYORS. BASED ON  
20    THE FINDINGS CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION, THE STATE HEREBY AFFIRMATIVELY  
21    EXPRESSES A POLICY TO ALLOW THE CORPORATION TO ENGAGE IN COLLABORATIVE

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 ACTIVITIES CONSISTENT WITH ITS HEALTH CARE PURPOSES, NOTWITHSTANDING  
2 THAT THOSE COLLABORATIONS MAY HAVE THE EFFECT OF DISPLACING COMPETITION  
3 IN THE PROVISION OF HOSPITAL, PHYSICIAN OR OTHER HEALTH CARE-RELATED  
4 SERVICES. WITH RESPECT TO THE COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES CONTEMPLATED IN  
5 THIS SECTION AND IN SUBDIVISION EIGHT OF SECTION THIRTY-THREE HUNDRED  
6 SIX OF THIS TITLE, THE CORPORATION AND THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITIES  
7 AND INDIVIDUALS WITH WHICH IT COLLABORATES SHALL BE IMMUNIZED FROM  
8 LIABILITY UNDER THE FEDERAL AND STATE ANTITRUST LAWS.

9 S 2. Section 3306 of the public authorities law is amended by adding a  
10 new subdivision 8 to read as follows:

11 8. (A) IN CARRYING OUT ITS HEALTH CARE PURPOSES THROUGH THE EXERCISE  
12 OF THE SPECIAL POWERS EXERCISED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND THE GENERAL  
13 POWERS EXERCISED PURSUANT TO SECTION THIRTY-THREE HUNDRED FIVE OF THIS  
14 TITLE, THE CORPORATION IS AUTHORIZED TO ENGAGE IN ARRANGEMENTS,  
15 CONTRACTS, INFORMATION SHARING AND OTHER COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES WITH  
16 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS IRRESPECTIVE OF THE COMPET-  
17 ITIVE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE ACTIVITIES AND NOTWITHSTANDING THAT THESE  
18 ACTIVITIES MAY HAVE THE EFFECT OF DISPLACING COMPETITION IN THE  
19 PROVISION OF HOSPITAL, PHYSICIAN, OR OTHER HEALTH CARE-RELATED SERVICES.  
20 THESE COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE WITHOUT LIMITATION: JOINT  
21 VENTURES; JOINT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PHYSICIANS, HOSPITALS AND PAYORS,  
22 WHETHER SUCH NEGOTIATIONS RESULT IN SEPARATE OR COMBINED AGREEMENTS;  
23 LEASES; AND/OR AGREEMENTS WHICH INVOLVE DELIVERY SYSTEM NETWORK CREATION  
24 AND OPERATION, PROVIDED THAT, THE CORPORATION SHALL EXERCISE STATE OVER-  
25 SIGHT BY DETERMINING WHETHER PARTICULAR COLLABORATIONS WITH PUBLIC OR  
26 PRIVATE ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS FURTHER THE INTERESTS OF THE STATE AS  
27 SET FORTH IN THIS SUBDIVISION AND IN SUBDIVISION SIX OF SECTION THIRTY-  
28 THREE HUNDRED ONE OF THIS TITLE. IN UNDERTAKING THESE COLLABORATIVE  
29 ACTIVITIES, THE CORPORATION AND THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITIES AND INDI-  
30 VIDUALS WITH WHICH IT COLLABORATES SHALL BE IMMUNIZED FROM LIABILITY  
31 UNDER THE FEDERAL AND STATE ANTITRUST LAWS.

32 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE CORPORATION  
33 AND ITS COLLABORATORS SHALL REMAIN SUBJECT TO GENERALLY APPLICABLE  
34 PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW AND REGULATIONS THEREUNDER. IN ADDI-  
35 TION, THE CORPORATION SHALL FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT WITH THE STATE DEPART-  
36 MENT OF HEALTH, AS ADDITIONAL STATE OVERSIGHT, CONCERNING THE IMPACT OF  
37 THE COLLABORATIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SECTION ON THE ADVANTAGES AND  
38 DISADVANTAGES IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN ITS REQUEST FOR  
39 APPLICATIONS FOR HEAL NY PHASE 21, ENTITLED "RESTRUCTURING INITIATIVES  
40 IN MEDICAID REDESIGN," AND CONCERNING THE IMPACT ON REIMBURSEMENT TO THE  
41 CORPORATION'S FACILITIES BY MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS WITH RESPECT TO  
42 COMMERCIAL PLAN MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE EXTENT TO WHICH RATES HAVE BEEN  
43 NEGOTIATED THAT MORE FAIRLY COMPENSATE THE CORPORATION'S FACILITIES FOR  
44 THE COST OF PROVIDING SERVICES TO COMMERCIAL ENROLLEES, WITHOUT  
45 CROSS-SUBSIDY FROM MEDICAID OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS. IN RESPONSE  
46 TO THE REPORT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL HAVE SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE  
47 REPORT HAS BEEN FILED TO REQUEST, IN WRITING, THAT THE CORPORATION MAKE  
48 CHANGES TO ITS POLICIES TO ENSURE THAT THE COLLABORATIONS AUTHORIZED  
49 UNDER THIS SECTION FURTHER THE INTERESTS OF THE STATE.

50 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.