

STATE OF NEW YORK

3131

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 27, 2021

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the closure of hospitals or emergency or maternity departments

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "local
2 input in community healthcare act".

3 § 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2801-h
4 to read as follows:

5 § 2801-h. Closure of hospitals and certain hospital departments. 1.
6 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the closure of a
7 general hospital or an emergency or maternity department, or surrender
8 of an operating certificate pursuant to this article shall be subject to
9 review and approval by the commissioner.

10 2. (a) When a facility applies to the commissioner for the closure of
11 a general hospital or an emergency or maternity department, the facility
12 must include a closure plan, including:

13 (1) the anticipated impact of the general hospital's or department's
14 closure on access to health care services by members of the surrounding
15 communities, including but not limited to recipients of medical assist-
16 ance for needy persons, the uninsured, and underserved populations
17 including people with disabilities;

18 (2) specific measures the facility and other parties have taken or
19 would take to ameliorate such anticipated impact on the communities;

20 (3) any further recommendations regarding access to health care
21 services in communities impacted by the closure; and

22 (4) efforts to identify an alternate operator or efforts to request
23 that the state assess its ability to assume financial responsibility.

24 (b) No later than thirty days after receipt of an application for
25 closure of a general hospital the commissioner shall submit a written

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

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1 notification to the county executive or president of the borough within
2 which the facility is located, the congressional representative for the
3 district in which the facility is located, and the state senator and the
4 assembly member representing the area within which the facility is
5 located, the city or county department of health, and where applicable,
6 the community board or the city council member representing the area
7 within which the facility is located. Such written notification shall
8 include:

9 (1) a complete copy of the hospital or department closure plan; and

10 (2) complete copies of the application or request for closure.

11 (c) The commissioner shall also make a full copy of such notification
12 available to the public on the department's website.

13 (d) The commissioner shall also notify the public of such application
14 for closure through a press release and the posting of a notice at the
15 affected hospital.

16 3. Upon any decision by the commissioner to approve or reject an
17 application for closure of a general hospital or an emergency or mater-
18 nity department, the commissioner shall make available to the public on
19 the department's website a written report including:

20 (a) a summary of the issues and proposals raised pursuant to subdivi-
21 sion one of section twenty-eight hundred one-g of this article;

22 (b) a statement of the reasons why any significant alternative
23 proposals made pursuant to subdivision one of section twenty-eight
24 hundred one-g of this article were or were not incorporated into the
25 final closure plan;

26 (c) a description of any changes made to the proposed closure plan as
27 a result of the issues or proposals raised pursuant to subdivision one
28 of section twenty-eight hundred one-g of this article;

29 (d) the anticipated impact of the general hospital's or department's
30 closure on access to health care services by members of the surrounding
31 community, including but not limited to, recipients of medical assist-
32 ance for needy persons, the uninsured, and underserved populations
33 including people with disabilities;

34 (e) the specific measures the facility, the department and other
35 parties have taken or will take to ameliorate the anticipated impact;

36 (f) an assessment of the ability of the state to assume financial
37 responsibility or identify an alternate operator;

38 (g) any further recommendations regarding access to health care
39 services in communities impacted by the general hospital's or emergency
40 or maternity department's closure;

41 (h) information about transitional medical services to the impacted
42 communities, including but not limited to arrangements for continuity of
43 care; and

44 (i) a complete copy of the proposed decision of the commissioner
45 regarding the closure of the hospital or emergency or maternity depart-
46 ment, including all proposed terms, conditions and plans for providing
47 health services to the affected communities and populations.

48 4. The commissioner may only approve the application if he or she
49 reasonably determines that the needs of the community and impacted
50 stakeholders, including but not limited to access to emergency medical
51 care, can be adequately met.

52 5. No closure shall be approved under this section unless the commis-
53 sioner complies with the provisions of this section and the provisions
54 of section twenty-eight hundred one-g of this article.

55 6. The commissioner shall promulgate any rules necessary to effectuate
56 the provisions of this section.

§ 3. Section 2801-g of the public health law, as added by chapter 541 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2801-g. Community forum on hospital closure. 1. No later than ~~[thirty]~~ forty-five days after ~~[the]~~ an application for closure of a general hospital, or an emergency or maternity department, and at least sixty days prior to the proposed closure date, the commissioner shall hold a public community forum for the purpose of obtaining public input concerning the anticipated impact of the general hospital's or emergency or maternity department's closure on access to health care services by members of the surrounding community, including but not limited to recipients of medical assistance for needy persons, the uninsured, and underserved populations including people with disabilities, and options and proposals to ameliorate such anticipated impact. The commissioner shall afford community members, health care providers, labor unions, payers, businesses ~~[and]~~, consumers, the congressional representative for the district in which the facility is located, the county executive or president of the borough within which the facility is located, the state senator and assembly member representing the area within which the facility is located, and the community board and the city council member representing the area within which the facility is located where applicable, a reasonable opportunity to speak about relevant matters at such community forum. The commissioner shall also accept comments submitted in writing at such public forum and by mail within at least two weeks following the community forum. At least ten days prior to such community forum, the commissioner shall release publicly and post on its website a complete copy of the commissioner's notification related to the closure required by subdivision three of section twenty-eight hundred one-h of this article.

~~2. [No later than sixty days after holding a community forum pursuant to subdivision one of this section, the commissioner shall make available to the public on the department's website information regarding:~~

~~(a) the anticipated impact of the general hospital's closure on access to health care services by members of the surrounding community, including but not limited to recipients of medical assistance for needy persons, the uninsured, and underserved populations;~~

~~(b) specific measures the department and other parties have taken or will take to ameliorate such anticipated impact; and~~

~~(c) any further recommendations regarding access to health care services in communities impacted by the general hospital's closure.~~

~~3.]~~ A community forum conducted pursuant to this section shall be held at a location within a reasonable proximity to the general hospital subject to closure, and shall be announced no less than ten days prior to the date of such community forum.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.