

---

HOUSE BILL 1636

---

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Edmonds, Skinner, Ruderman, Pflug, Pennington, Cody, Kenney, Schual-Berke, Edwards, Morell and Santos

Read first time 01/31/2001. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to nursing facility certificate of need  
2 requirements; and amending RCW 70.38.111 and 70.38.115.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.38.111 and 1997 c 210 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The department shall not require a certificate of need for the  
7 offering of an inpatient tertiary health service by:

8 (a) A health maintenance organization or a combination of health  
9 maintenance organizations if (i) the organization or combination of  
10 organizations has, in the service area of the organization or the  
11 service areas of the organizations in the combination, an enrollment of  
12 at least fifty thousand individuals, (ii) the facility in which the  
13 service will be provided is or will be geographically located so that  
14 the service will be reasonably accessible to such enrolled individuals,  
15 and (iii) at least seventy-five percent of the patients who can  
16 reasonably be expected to receive the tertiary health service will be  
17 individuals enrolled with such organization or organizations in the  
18 combination;

1 (b) A health care facility if (i) the facility primarily provides  
2 or will provide inpatient health services, (ii) the facility is or will  
3 be controlled, directly or indirectly, by a health maintenance  
4 organization or a combination of health maintenance organizations which  
5 has, in the service area of the organization or service areas of the  
6 organizations in the combination, an enrollment of at least fifty  
7 thousand individuals, (iii) the facility is or will be geographically  
8 located so that the service will be reasonably accessible to such  
9 enrolled individuals, and (iv) at least seventy-five percent of the  
10 patients who can reasonably be expected to receive the tertiary health  
11 service will be individuals enrolled with such organization or  
12 organizations in the combination; or

13 (c) A health care facility (or portion thereof) if (i) the facility  
14 is or will be leased by a health maintenance organization or  
15 combination of health maintenance organizations which has, in the  
16 service area of the organization or the service areas of the  
17 organizations in the combination, an enrollment of at least fifty  
18 thousand individuals and, on the date the application is submitted  
19 under subsection (2) of this section, at least fifteen years remain in  
20 the term of the lease, (ii) the facility is or will be geographically  
21 located so that the service will be reasonably accessible to such  
22 enrolled individuals, and (iii) at least seventy-five percent of the  
23 patients who can reasonably be expected to receive the tertiary health  
24 service will be individuals enrolled with such organization;  
25 if, with respect to such offering or obligation by a nursing home, the  
26 department has, upon application under subsection (2) of this section,  
27 granted an exemption from such requirement to the organization,  
28 combination of organizations, or facility.

29 (2) A health maintenance organization, combination of health  
30 maintenance organizations, or health care facility shall not be exempt  
31 under subsection (1) of this section from obtaining a certificate of  
32 need before offering a tertiary health service unless:

33 (a) It has submitted at least thirty days prior to the offering of  
34 services reviewable under RCW 70.38.105(4)(d) an application for such  
35 exemption; and

36 (b) The application contains such information respecting the  
37 organization, combination, or facility and the proposed offering or  
38 obligation by a nursing home as the department may require to determine  
39 if the organization or combination meets the requirements of subsection

1 (1) of this section or the facility meets or will meet such  
2 requirements; and

3 (c) The department approves such application. The department shall  
4 approve or disapprove an application for exemption within thirty days  
5 of receipt of a completed application. In the case of a proposed  
6 health care facility (or portion thereof) which has not begun to  
7 provide tertiary health services on the date an application is  
8 submitted under this subsection with respect to such facility (or  
9 portion), the facility (or portion) shall meet the applicable  
10 requirements of subsection (1) of this section when the facility first  
11 provides such services. The department shall approve an application  
12 submitted under this subsection if it determines that the applicable  
13 requirements of subsection (1) of this section are met.

14 (3) A health care facility (or any part thereof) with respect to  
15 which an exemption was granted under subsection (1) of this section may  
16 not be sold or leased and a controlling interest in such facility or in  
17 a lease of such facility may not be acquired and a health care facility  
18 described in (1)(c) which was granted an exemption under subsection (1)  
19 of this section may not be used by any person other than the lessee  
20 described in (1)(c) unless:

21 (a) The department issues a certificate of need approving the sale,  
22 lease, acquisition, or use; or

23 (b) The department determines, upon application, that (i) the  
24 entity to which the facility is proposed to be sold or leased, which  
25 intends to acquire the controlling interest, or which intends to use  
26 the facility is a health maintenance organization or a combination of  
27 health maintenance organizations which meets the requirements of  
28 (1)(a)(i), and (ii) with respect to such facility, meets the  
29 requirements of (1)(a)(ii) or (iii) or the requirements of (1)(b)(i)  
30 and (ii).

31 (4) In the case of a health maintenance organization, an ambulatory  
32 care facility, or a health care facility, which ambulatory or health  
33 care facility is controlled, directly or indirectly, by a health  
34 maintenance organization or a combination of health maintenance  
35 organizations, the department may under the program apply its  
36 certificate of need requirements only to the offering of inpatient  
37 tertiary health services and then only to the extent that such offering  
38 is not exempt under the provisions of this section.

1 (5)(a) The department shall not require a certificate of need for  
2 the construction, development, or other establishment of a nursing  
3 home, or the addition of beds to an existing nursing home, that is  
4 owned and operated by a continuing care retirement community that:

5 (i) Offers services only to contractual members;

6 (ii) Provides its members a contractually guaranteed range of  
7 services from independent living through skilled nursing, including  
8 some assistance with daily living activities;

9 (iii) Contractually assumes responsibility for the cost of services  
10 exceeding the member's financial responsibility under the contract, so  
11 that no third party, with the exception of insurance purchased by the  
12 retirement community or its members, but including the medicaid  
13 program, is liable for costs of care even if the member depletes his or  
14 her personal resources;

15 (iv) Has offered continuing care contracts and operated a nursing  
16 home continuously since January 1, 1988, or has obtained a certificate  
17 of need to establish a nursing home;

18 (v) Maintains a binding agreement with the state assuring that  
19 financial liability for services to members, including nursing home  
20 services, will not fall upon the state;

21 (vi) Does not operate, and has not undertaken a project that would  
22 result in a number of nursing home beds in excess of one for every four  
23 living units operated by the continuing care retirement community,  
24 exclusive of nursing home beds; and

25 (vii) Has obtained a professional review of pricing and long-term  
26 solvency within the prior five years which was fully disclosed to  
27 members.

28 (b) A continuing care retirement community shall not be exempt  
29 under this subsection from obtaining a certificate of need unless:

30 (i) It has submitted an application for exemption at least thirty  
31 days prior to commencing construction of, is submitting an application  
32 for the licensure of, or is commencing operation of a nursing home,  
33 whichever comes first; and

34 (ii) The application documents to the department that the  
35 continuing care retirement community qualifies for exemption.

36 (c) The sale, lease, acquisition, or use of part or all of a  
37 continuing care retirement community nursing home that qualifies for  
38 exemption under this subsection shall require prior certificate of need  
39 approval to qualify for licensure as a nursing home unless the

1 department determines such sale, lease, acquisition, or use is by a  
2 continuing care retirement community that meets the conditions of (a)  
3 of this subsection.

4 (6) A rural hospital, as defined by the department, reducing the  
5 number of licensed beds to become a rural primary care hospital under  
6 the provisions of Part A Title XVIII of the Social Security Act Section  
7 1820, 42 U.S.C., 1395c et seq. may, within three years of the reduction  
8 of beds licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, increase the number of  
9 licensed beds to no more than the previously licensed number without  
10 being subject to the provisions of this chapter.

11 (7) A rural health care facility licensed under RCW 70.175.100  
12 formerly licensed as a hospital under chapter 70.41 RCW may, within  
13 three years of the effective date of the rural health care facility  
14 license, apply to the department for a hospital license and not be  
15 subject to the requirements of RCW 70.38.105(4)(a) as the construction,  
16 development, or other establishment of a new hospital, provided there  
17 is no increase in the number of beds previously licensed under chapter  
18 70.41 RCW and there is no redistribution in the number of beds used for  
19 acute care or long-term care, the rural health care facility has been  
20 in continuous operation, and the rural health care facility has not  
21 been purchased or leased.

22 (8)(a) A nursing home that voluntarily reduces the number of its  
23 licensed beds to provide assisted living, licensed boarding home care,  
24 adult day care, adult day health, respite care, hospice, outpatient  
25 therapy services, congregate meals, home health, or senior wellness  
26 clinic, or to reduce to one or two the number of beds per room or to  
27 otherwise enhance the quality of life for residents in the nursing  
28 home, may convert the original facility or portion of the facility  
29 back, and thereby increase the number of nursing home beds to no more  
30 than the previously licensed number of nursing home beds without  
31 obtaining a certificate of need under this chapter, provided the  
32 facility has been in continuous operation (~~and has not been purchased~~  
33 ~~or leased~~) by the person licensed to operate it under chapter 18.51  
34 RCW at the time of the reduction. Any conversion to the original  
35 licensed bed capacity, or to any portion thereof, shall comply with the  
36 same life and safety code requirements as existed at the time the  
37 nursing home voluntarily reduced its licensed beds; unless waivers from  
38 such requirements were issued, in which case the converted beds shall

1 reflect the conditions or standards that then existed pursuant to the  
2 approved waivers.

3 (b) To convert beds back to nursing home beds under this  
4 subsection, the nursing home must:

5 (i) Give notice of its intent to preserve conversion options to the  
6 department of health no later than thirty days after the effective date  
7 of the license reduction; and

8 (ii) Give notice to the department of health and to the department  
9 of social and health services of the intent to convert beds back. If  
10 construction is required for the conversion of beds back, the notice of  
11 intent to convert beds back must be given, at a minimum, one year prior  
12 to the effective date of license modification reflecting the restored  
13 beds; otherwise, the notice must be given a minimum of ninety days  
14 prior to the effective date of license modification reflecting the  
15 restored beds. Prior to any license modification to convert beds back  
16 to nursing home beds under this section, the licensee must demonstrate  
17 that the nursing home meets the certificate of need exemption  
18 requirements of this section.

19 The term "construction," as used in (b)(ii) of this subsection, is  
20 limited to those projects that are expected to equal or exceed the  
21 expenditure minimum amount, as determined under this chapter.

22 ~~(c) ((Conversion of beds back under this subsection must be  
23 completed no later than four years after the effective date of the  
24 license reduction. However, for good cause shown, the four year period  
25 for conversion may be extended by the department of health for one  
26 additional four year period.~~

27 ~~(d))~~ Nursing home beds that have been voluntarily reduced under  
28 this section shall be counted as available nursing home beds for the  
29 purpose of evaluating need under RCW 70.38.115(2) (a) and (k) so long  
30 as the facility retains the ability to convert them back to nursing  
31 home use under the terms of this section.

32 ~~((e))~~ (d) When a building owner has secured an interest in the  
33 nursing home beds, which are intended to be voluntarily reduced by the  
34 licensee under (a) of this subsection, the applicant shall provide the  
35 department with a written statement indicating the building owner's  
36 approval of the bed reduction.

37 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.38.115 and 1996 c 178 s 22 are each amended to read  
38 as follows:

1 (1) Certificates of need shall be issued, denied, suspended, or  
2 revoked by the designee of the secretary in accord with the provisions  
3 of this chapter and rules of the department which establish review  
4 procedures and criteria for the certificate of need program.

5 (2) Criteria for the review of certificate of need applications,  
6 except as provided in subsection (3) of this section for health  
7 maintenance organizations, shall include but not be limited to  
8 consideration of the following:

9 (a) The need that the population served or to be served by such  
10 services has for such services;

11 (b) The availability of less costly or more effective alternative  
12 methods of providing such services;

13 (c) The financial feasibility and the probable impact of the  
14 proposal on the cost of and charges for providing health services in  
15 the community to be served;

16 (d) In the case of health services to be provided, (i) the  
17 availability of alternative uses of project resources for the provision  
18 of other health services, (ii) the extent to which such proposed  
19 services will be accessible to all residents of the area to be served,  
20 and (iii) the need for and the availability in the community of  
21 services and facilities for osteopathic physicians and surgeons and  
22 allopathic physicians and their patients. The department shall  
23 consider the application in terms of its impact on existing and  
24 proposed institutional training programs for doctors of osteopathic  
25 medicine and surgery and medicine at the student, internship, and  
26 residency training levels;

27 (e) In the case of a construction project, the costs and methods of  
28 the proposed construction, including the cost and methods of energy  
29 provision, and the probable impact of the construction project reviewed  
30 (i) on the cost of providing health services by the person proposing  
31 such construction project and (ii) on the cost and charges to the  
32 public of providing health services by other persons;

33 (f) The special needs and circumstances of osteopathic hospitals,  
34 nonallopathic services and children's hospitals;

35 (g) Improvements or innovations in the financing and delivery of  
36 health services which foster cost containment and serve to promote  
37 quality assurance and cost-effectiveness;

1 (h) In the case of health services proposed to be provided, the  
2 efficiency and appropriateness of the use of existing services and  
3 facilities similar to those proposed;

4 (i) In the case of existing services or facilities, the quality of  
5 care provided by such services or facilities in the past;

6 (j) In the case of hospital certificate of need applications,  
7 whether the hospital meets or exceeds the regional average level of  
8 charity care, as determined by the secretary; and

9 (k) In the case of nursing home applications:

10 (i) The availability of other nursing home beds in the planning  
11 area to be served; and

12 (ii) The availability of other services in the community to be  
13 served. Data used to determine the availability of other services will  
14 include but not be limited to data provided by the department of social  
15 and health services.

16 (3) A certificate of need application of a health maintenance  
17 organization or a health care facility which is controlled, directly or  
18 indirectly, by a health maintenance organization, shall be approved by  
19 the department if the department finds:

20 (a) Approval of such application is required to meet the needs of  
21 the members of the health maintenance organization and of the new  
22 members which such organization can reasonably be expected to enroll;  
23 and

24 (b) The health maintenance organization is unable to provide,  
25 through services or facilities which can reasonably be expected to be  
26 available to the organization, its health services in a reasonable and  
27 cost-effective manner which is consistent with the basic method of  
28 operation of the organization and which makes such services available  
29 on a long-term basis through physicians and other health professionals  
30 associated with it.

31 A health care facility, or any part thereof, with respect to which  
32 a certificate of need was issued under this subsection may not be sold  
33 or leased and a controlling interest in such facility or in a lease of  
34 such facility may not be acquired unless the department issues a  
35 certificate of need approving the sale, acquisition, or lease.

36 (4) Until the final expiration of the state health plan as provided  
37 under RCW 70.38.919, the decision of the department on a certificate of  
38 need application shall be consistent with the state health plan in  
39 effect, except in emergency circumstances which pose a threat to the



1 public health. The department in making its final decision may issue  
2 a conditional certificate of need if it finds that the project is  
3 justified only under specific circumstances. The conditions shall  
4 directly relate to the project being reviewed. The conditions may be  
5 released if it can be substantiated that the conditions are no longer  
6 valid and the release of such conditions would be consistent with the  
7 purposes of this chapter.

8 (5) Criteria adopted for review in accordance with subsection (2)  
9 of this section may vary according to the purpose for which the  
10 particular review is being conducted or the type of health service  
11 reviewed.

12 (6) The department shall specify information to be required for  
13 certificate of need applications. Within fifteen days of receipt of  
14 the application, the department shall request additional information  
15 considered necessary to the application or start the review process.  
16 Applicants may decline to submit requested information through written  
17 notice to the department, in which case review starts on the date of  
18 receipt of the notice. Applications may be denied or limited because  
19 of failure to submit required and necessary information.

20 (7) Concurrent review is for the purpose of comparative analysis  
21 and evaluation of competing or similar projects in order to determine  
22 which of the projects may best meet identified needs. Categories of  
23 projects subject to concurrent review include at least new health care  
24 facilities, new services, and expansion of existing health care  
25 facilities. The department shall specify time periods for the  
26 submission of applications for certificates of need subject to  
27 concurrent review, which shall not exceed ninety days. Review of  
28 concurrent applications shall start fifteen days after the conclusion  
29 of the time period for submission of applications subject to concurrent  
30 review. Concurrent review periods shall be limited to one hundred  
31 fifty days, except as provided for in rules adopted by the department  
32 authorizing and limiting amendment during the course of the review, or  
33 for an unresolved pivotal issue declared by the department.

34 (8) Review periods for certificate of need applications other than  
35 those subject to concurrent review shall be limited to ninety days.  
36 Review periods may be extended up to thirty days if needed by a review  
37 agency, and for unresolved pivotal issues the department may extend up  
38 to an additional thirty days. A review may be extended in any case if  
39 the applicant agrees to the extension.

1 (9) The department or its designee, shall conduct a public hearing  
2 on a certificate of need application if requested unless the review is  
3 expedited or subject to emergency review. The department by rule shall  
4 specify the period of time within which a public hearing must be  
5 requested and requirements related to public notice of the hearing,  
6 procedures, recordkeeping and related matters.

7 (10)(a) Any applicant denied a certificate of need or whose  
8 certificate of need has been suspended or revoked has the right to an  
9 adjudicative proceeding. The proceeding is governed by chapter 34.05  
10 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act.

11 (b) Any health care facility or health maintenance organization  
12 that: (i) Provides services similar to the services provided by the  
13 applicant and under review pursuant to this subsection; (ii) is located  
14 within the applicant's health service area; and (iii) testified or  
15 submitted evidence at a public hearing held pursuant to subsection (9)  
16 of this section, shall be provided an opportunity to present oral or  
17 written testimony and argument in a proceeding under this subsection:  
18 PROVIDED, That the health care facility or health maintenance  
19 organization had, in writing, requested to be informed of the  
20 department's decisions.

21 (c) If the department desires to settle with the applicant prior to  
22 the conclusion of the adjudicative proceeding, the department shall so  
23 inform the health care facility or health maintenance organization and  
24 afford them an opportunity to comment, in advance, on the proposed  
25 settlement.

26 (11) An amended certificate of need shall be required for the  
27 following modifications of an approved project:

28 (a) A new service requiring review under this chapter;

29 (b) An expansion of a service subject to review beyond that  
30 originally approved;

31 (c) An increase in bed capacity;

32 (d) A significant reduction in the scope of a nursing home project  
33 without a commensurate reduction in the cost of the nursing home  
34 project, or a cost increase (as represented in bids on a nursing home  
35 construction project or final cost estimates acceptable to the person  
36 to whom the certificate of need was issued) if the total of such  
37 increases exceeds twelve percent or fifty thousand dollars, whichever  
38 is greater, over the maximum capital expenditure approved. The review  
39 of reductions or cost increases shall be restricted to the continued

1 conformance of the nursing home project with the review criteria  
2 pertaining to financial feasibility and cost containment.

3 (12) An application for a certificate of need for a nursing home  
4 capital expenditure which is determined by the department to be  
5 required to eliminate or prevent imminent safety hazards or correct  
6 violations of applicable licensure and accreditation standards shall be  
7 approved.

8 (13)(a) Replacement of existing nursing home beds in the same  
9 planning area by an existing licensee who has operated the beds for at  
10 least one year shall not require a certificate of need under this  
11 chapter. The licensee shall give written notice of its intent to  
12 replace the existing nursing home beds to the department and shall  
13 provide the department with information as may be required pursuant to  
14 rule. Replacement of the beds by a party other than the licensee is  
15 subject to certificate of need review under this chapter, except as  
16 otherwise permitted by subsection (14) of this section.

17 (b) When an entire nursing home ceases operation, the licensee or  
18 any other party who has secured an interest in the beds may reserve his  
19 or her interest in the beds for eight years or until a certificate of  
20 need to replace them is issued, whichever occurs first. However, the  
21 nursing home, licensee, or any other party who has secured an interest  
22 in the beds must give notice of its intent to retain the beds to the  
23 department of health no later than thirty days after the effective date  
24 of the facility's closure. Certificate of need review shall be  
25 required for any party who has reserved the nursing home beds except  
26 that the need criteria shall be deemed met when the applicant is the  
27 licensee who had operated the beds for at least one year, who has  
28 operated the beds for at least one year immediately preceding the  
29 reservation of the beds, and who is replacing the beds in the same  
30 planning area.

31 (14) In the event that a licensee, who has provided the department  
32 with notice of his or her intent to replace nursing home beds under  
33 subsection (13)(a) of this section, engages in unprofessional conduct  
34 or becomes unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety by  
35 reason of mental or physical condition, pursuant to chapter 18.130 RCW,  
36 (~~(or)~~) dies, or files for or otherwise declares bankruptcy, the  
37 building owner shall be permitted to complete the nursing home bed

1 replacement project, provided the building owner has secured an  
2 interest in the beds.

--- END ---