

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

H

2

**HOUSE BILL 669
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/9/03**

Short Title: Hospital Licensure/Critical Access Hospital.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 26, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF A "PRIMARY CARE HOSPITAL" TO
REFLECT FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 131E-76 reads as rewritten:

"§ 131E-76. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless otherwise specified:

- (1) "Commission" means the North Carolina Medical Care Commission.
- (2) "Governing body" means the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, partnership, corporation, association, person or group of persons who maintain and control the hospital. The governing body may or may not be the owner of the properties in which the hospital services are provided.
- (3) "Hospital" means any facility which has an organized medical staff and which is designed, used, and operated to provide health care, diagnostic and therapeutic services, and continuous nursing care primarily to inpatients where such care and services are rendered under the supervision and direction of physicians licensed under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, Article 1, to two or more persons over a period in excess of 24 hours. The term includes facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of disorders within the scope of specific health specialties. The term does not include private mental facilities licensed under Article 2 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes, nursing homes licensed under G.S. 131E-102, and adult care homes licensed under G.S. 131D-2.
- (4) "Infirmarary" means a unit of a school, or similar educational institution, which has the primary purpose to provide limited short-term health and nursing services to its students.

- 1 (5) "Medical review committee" means a committee of a State or local
2 professional society, of a medical staff of a licensed hospital or a
3 committee of a peer review corporation or organization which is
4 formed for the purpose of evaluating the quality, cost of, or necessity
5 for hospitalization or health care, including medical staff credentialing.
- 6 (6) "~~Primary care hospital~~" "Critical access hospital" means a hospital
7 which has been designated as a ~~primary care~~ critical access hospital by
8 the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Office
9 of Rural Health and Resource Development. To be designated as a
10 ~~primary care~~ critical access hospital under this subdivision, the
11 hospital must ~~be located in a rural community, provide primary care~~
12 ~~inpatient services that do not include inpatient surgery, and provide~~
13 ~~outpatient services which may include outpatient surgery. A primary~~
14 ~~care hospital shall have a maximum annual average daily census of 15~~
15 ~~patients and may have psychiatric and long term care distinct part~~
16 ~~units. A primary care hospital must be part of a rural hospital~~
17 ~~network.~~ meet the requirements of federal law for certification as a
18 critical access hospital. A hospital designated as a critical access
19 hospital shall, at a minimum, offer primary outpatient services and
20 ensure the availability of 24-hour emergency services. A critical access
21 hospital must be part of a rural hospital network.
- 22 (7) "Rural hospital network" means an alliance of members that shall
23 include at least one ~~primary care~~ critical access hospital and one other
24 hospital. To qualify as a rural hospital network, the ~~members~~ critical
25 access hospital must submit a comprehensive, written memorandum of
26 understanding to the Department of Health and Human Services for
27 the Department's approval. The memorandum of understanding must
28 include provisions for patient referral and transfer, a plan for
29 network-wide emergency services, and a plan for sharing patient
30 information and services between hospital members including medical
31 staff credentialing, risk management, quality assurance, and peer
32 review."

33 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.