

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0034

Medical specialty centers.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public health and safety; providing a
2 temporary moratorium on licensing of new medical specialty
3 centers, as specified; providing a definition; providing
4 for a study of medical specialty centers by the Wyoming
5 health care commission; requiring a report; providing an
6 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-2-913 is created to read:

11

12 **35-2-913. Medical specialty centers; moratorium.**

13

14 (a) For purposes of this section, "medical specialty
15 center" means a hospital organized or incorporated as an

1 entity that is primarily or exclusively engaged in the care
2 and treatment of one (1) or more of the following:

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4 (i) Patients with a cardiac condition;

5

6 (ii) Patients with an orthopedic condition;

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8 (iii) Patients receiving a surgical procedure;

9 or

10

11 (iv) Patients receiving any other specialized
12 category of services designated by the department in its
13 rules and regulations.

14

15 (b) For purposes of this section, the following are
16 not medical specialty centers:

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18 (i) Psychiatric hospitals;

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20 (ii) Rehabilitation hospitals;

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22 (iii) Children's hospitals;

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24 (iv) Long-term care hospitals;

1

2 (v) Cancer treatment hospitals;

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4 (vi) Existing medical specialty centers licensed
5 as provided in this chapter before April 1, 2006.

6

7 (c) Except for renewal licenses pursuant to W.S.
8 35-2-904(c), the department shall not issue a license for a
9 hospital or medical specialty center before April 1, 2007
10 if the hospital or medical specialty center:

11

12 (i) Allows patients to remain in the facility
13 for twenty-four (24) hours or longer;

14

15 (ii) Is in a community or within fifteen (15)
16 miles of a community which already has a hospital; and

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18 (iii) Is not an institution listed in W.S.
19 35-2-913(b).

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21 (d) The department shall adopt rules and regulations
22 to implement the provisions of this section.

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1 (e) The director pursuant to rules and regulations,
2 upon written application and a finding of an acute shortage
3 of health care in the community of the type offered by an
4 applicant medical specialty center, may waive the
5 moratorium provided under subsection (c) of this section.

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7 (f) This section is repealed effective April 1, 2007.

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9 **Section 2.** W.S. 35-2-901(a)(xxiv) is amended to read:

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11 **35-2-901. Definitions; applicability of provisions.**

12

13 (a) As used in this act:

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15 (xxiv) "This act" means W.S. 35-2-901 through
16 ~~35-2-912~~ 35-2-913.

17

18 **Section 3.**

19

20 (a) The Wyoming health care commission shall conduct
21 a study of medical specialty centers and their effects,
22 both actual and potential, on the state's health care
23 system. In performing the study, the commission shall

1 evaluate and formulate recommendations regarding each of
2 the following issues:

3

4 (i) The possible effects on the state's health
5 care system, particularly on the delivery of inpatient
6 hospital services, of physician and hospital ownership and
7 investment interests in for-profit medical specialty
8 centers;

9

10 (ii) The feasibility of requiring physicians
11 planning to establish a for-profit medical specialty center
12 to do so in collaboration with a general hospital. The
13 commission shall also consider how the hospital and
14 physicians might share ownership and investment interest in
15 a for-profit medical specialty center;

16

17 (iii) The feasibility of creating a fund to
18 subsidize high cost emergency and trauma care for uninsured
19 persons who are treated at hospitals other than medical
20 specialty centers and of requiring medical specialty
21 centers to contribute to the fund;

22

23 (iv) The feasibility of each of the following:

24

1 (A) Establishing a certificate of need
2 process;

3

4 (B) Modifying the licensure process for
5 medical specialty centers.

6

7 (v) The feasibility of requiring for-profit
8 medical specialty centers to provide a certain amount of
9 indigent care;

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11 (vi) Any other issue the commission considers
12 appropriate.

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14 (b) The commission shall submit its report to the
15 governor, the legislative management council and the joint
16 labor, health and social services interim committee not
17 later than November 1, 2006.

18

19 **Section 4.** One hundred seventy-five thousand dollars
20 (\$175,000.00) is appropriated from the general fund to the
21 health care commission for the purposes of the study
22 required in section 3 of this act.

23

1 **Section 5.** This act is effective immediately upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
4 Constitution.

5

6

(END)