

S.73

An act relating to the moratorium on home health agency certificates of need

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. CERTIFICATE OF NEED WORK GROUP; MORATORIUM

* * *

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no CON shall be granted for the offering of home health services, which includes hospice, or for a new home health agency during the period beginning on the effective date of this act and continuing through ~~June 30, 2013~~ January 1, 2017, or until the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly lifts the moratorium after considering ~~and acting on the work group's recommendations as it deems appropriate~~ a progress report on the Green Mountain Care Board's implementation of its health planning function and how it relates to home health agencies, whichever occurs first; provided, however, that the moratorium established pursuant to this subsection shall not apply to a continuing care retirement community that has been issued a certificate of authority.

(e) Notwithstanding the moratorium established in subsection (d) of this section, a CON application for a new home health agency may be considered and granted during the moratorium if the ~~commissioners of banking, insurance,~~

~~securities, and health care administration~~ Green Mountain Care Board and ~~of~~
~~disabilities, aging, and independent living~~ the Commissioner of Disabilities,
Aging, and Independent Living have each first certified that a serious and
substantial lack of access to home health services exists in a particular county
and the agencies presently serving that county have been given notice and a
reasonable opportunity to either challenge that certification or remediate the
problem.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent existing home
health agencies from seeking approval from the ~~department of banking,~~
~~insurance, securities, and health care administration~~ Green Mountain Care
Board or ~~of disabilities, aging, and independent living~~ the Department of
Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living to expand or contract their
designated geographical regions or from merging.

(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the ~~commissioner~~
~~of banking, insurance, securities, and health care administration~~ Green
Mountain Care Board from granting a certificate of need to a home health
agency that had filed a letter of intent or had a certificate of need application
pending prior to ~~the effective date of this act~~ April 21, 2010.

Sec. 2. PERIODIC HEALTH PLANNING FUNCTION PROGRESS

REPORTS

For as long as the moratorium continues for certificates of need for the offering of home health services, as established in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 83, Sec. 2, as amended by this act, the Green Mountain Care Board shall provide to the House committees on Health Care and on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare any progress reports the Board generates on its implementation of its health planning function and how it relates to home health agencies.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.