

S.255 - Health Care Advocate language re hospital budget review

Sec. X. 18 V.S.A. § 9456(d) is amended to read:

(d)(1) Annually, the Board shall establish a budget for each hospital by September 15, followed by a written decision by October 1. Each hospital shall operate within the budget established under this section.

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(3)(A) The Office of the Health Care Advocate shall have the right to receive copies of all materials related to the hospital budget review and may:

(i) ask questions of any participant in the Board's hospital budget review;

(ii) submit written comments for the Board's consideration; and

(iii) **ask questions and** provide testimony in any hearing held in conjunction with the Board's hospital budget review.

(B) The Office of the Health Care Advocate shall not further disclose any confidential or proprietary information provided to the Office pursuant to this subdivision (3).