

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Health Care to which was referred Senate Bill No. 73
3 entitled “An act relating to licensure of ambulatory surgical centers”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after
6 the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. chapter 49 is added to read:

8 CHAPTER 49. AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS

9 Subchapter 1. General Provisions

10 § 2141. DEFINITIONS

11 As used in this chapter:

12 (1) “Ambulatory surgical center” means any distinct entity that operates
13 primarily for the purpose of providing surgical services to patients not
14 requiring hospitalization and for which the expected duration of services would
15 not exceed 24 hours following an admission. The term does not include:

16 (A) a facility that is licensed as part of a hospital; or

17 (B) a facility that is used exclusively as an office or clinic for the
18 private practice of one or more licensed health care professionals, unless one or
19 more of the following descriptions apply:

1 (i) the facility holds itself out to the public or to other health care
2 providers as an ambulatory surgical center, surgical center, surgery center,
3 surgicenter, or similar facility using a similar name or a variation thereof;

4 (ii) procedures are carried out at the facility using general
5 anesthesia, except as used in oral or maxillofacial surgery or as used by a
6 dentist with a general anesthesia endorsement from the Board of Dental
7 Examiners; or

8 (iii) patients are charged a fee for the use of the facility in addition
9 to the fee for the professional services of one or more of the health care
10 professionals practicing at that facility.

11 (2) “Health care professional” means:

12 (A) a physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33;

13 (B) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to
14 26 V.S.A. chapter 28;

15 (C) a physician assistant licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 31;

16 (D) a podiatrist licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 7; or

17 (E) a dentist licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 12.

18 (3) “Patient” means a person admitted to or receiving health care
19 services from an ambulatory surgical center.

1 Subchapter 2. Licensure of Ambulatory Surgical Centers

2 § 2151. LICENSE

3 No person shall establish, maintain, or operate an ambulatory surgical
4 center in this State without first obtaining a license for the ambulatory surgical
5 center in accordance with this subchapter.

6 § 2152. APPLICATION; FEE

7 (a) An application for licensure of an ambulatory surgical center shall be
8 made to the Department of Health on forms provided by the Department and
9 shall include all information required by the Department. Each application for
10 a license shall be accompanied by a license fee.

11 (b) The annual licensing fee for an ambulatory surgical center shall
12 be \$600.00.

13 (c) Fees collected under this section shall be credited to a special fund
14 established and managed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5 and
15 shall be available to the Department of Health to offset the costs of licensing
16 ambulatory surgical centers.

17 § 2153. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

18 (a) Upon receipt of an application for a license and the licensing fee, the
19 Department of Health shall issue a license if it determines that the applicant
20 and the ambulatory surgical center facilities meet the following minimum
21 standards:

1 (1) The applicant shall demonstrate the capacity to operate an
2 ambulatory surgical center in accordance with rules adopted by the
3 Department.

4 (2) The applicant shall demonstrate that its facilities comply fully with
5 standards for health, safety, and sanitation as required by State law, including
6 standards set forth by the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Health, and
7 municipal ordinance.

8 (3) The applicant shall have a clear process for responding to patient
9 complaints.

10 (4) The applicant shall participate in the Patient Safety Surveillance and
11 Improvement System established pursuant to chapter 43A of this title.

12 (5) The applicant shall maintain certification from the Centers for
13 Medicare and Medicaid Services and shall accept Medicare and Medicaid
14 patients for ambulatory surgical center facility services.

15 (6) The ambulatory surgical center facilities, including the buildings and
16 grounds, shall be subject to inspection by the Department, its designees, and
17 other authorized entities at all times.

18 (b) A license is not transferable or assignable and shall be issued only for
19 the premises and persons named in the application.

1 § 2154. REVOCATION OF LICENSE; HEARING

2 The Department of Health, after notice and opportunity for hearing to the
3 applicant or licensee, is authorized to deny, suspend, or revoke a license in any
4 case in which it finds that there has been a substantial failure to comply with
5 the requirements established under this chapter. Such notice shall be served by
6 registered mail or by personal service, shall set forth the reasons for the
7 proposed action, and shall set a date not less than 60 days from the date of the
8 mailing or service on which the applicant or licensee shall be given
9 opportunity for a hearing. After the hearing, or upon default of the applicant or
10 licensee, the Department shall file its findings of fact and conclusions of law.
11 A copy of the findings and decision shall be sent by registered mail or served
12 personally upon the applicant or licensee. The procedure governing hearings
13 authorized by this section shall be in accordance with the usual and customary
14 rules provided for such hearings.

15 § 2155. APPEAL

16 Any applicant or licensee, or the State acting through the Attorney General,
17 aggrieved by the decision of the Department of Health after a hearing may,
18 within 30 days after entry of the decision as provided in section 2154 of this
19 title, appeal to the Superior Court for the district in which the appellant is
20 located. The court may affirm, modify, or reverse the Department's decision,
21 and either the applicant or licensee or the Department or State may appeal to

1 the Vermont Supreme Court for such further review as is provided by law.

2 Pending final disposition of the matter, the status quo of the applicant or
3 licensee shall be preserved, except as the court otherwise orders in the public
4 interest.

5 § 2156. INSPECTIONS

6 The Department of Health shall make or cause to be made such inspections
7 and investigations as it deems necessary. If the Department finds a violation as
8 the result of an inspection or investigation, the Department shall post a report
9 on the Department's website summarizing the violation and any corrective
10 action required.

11 § 2157. RECORDS

12 (a) Information received by the Department of Health through filed reports,
13 inspections, or as otherwise authorized by law shall:

14 (1) not be disclosed publicly in a manner that identifies or may lead to
15 the identification of one or more individuals or ambulatory surgical centers;

16 (2) be exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public
17 Records Act; and

18 (3) be kept confidential except as it relates to a proceeding regarding
19 licensure of an ambulatory surgical center.

1 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to the
2 summary reports of violations required to be posted on the Department’s
3 website pursuant to section 2156 of this chapter.

4 § 2158. NONAPPLICABILITY

5 The provisions of chapter 42 of this title, Bill of Rights for Hospital
6 Patients, do not apply to ambulatory surgical centers.

7 § 2159. RULES

8 The Department of Health shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25
9 as needed to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The rules shall include
10 requirements regarding:

11 (1) the ambulatory surgical center’s maintenance of a transport
12 agreement with at least one emergency medical services provider for
13 emergency patient transportation;

14 (2) the ambulatory surgical center’s maintenance of a publicly
15 accessible policy for providing charity care to eligible patients; and

16 (3) the ambulatory surgical center’s participation in quality reporting
17 programs offered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

18 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 1909 is amended to read:

19 § 1909. INSPECTIONS

20 The licensing agency shall make or cause to be made such inspections and
21 investigation investigations as it deems necessary. If the licensing agency

1 finds a violation as the result of an inspection or investigation, the licensing
2 agency shall post a report on the licensing agency's website summarizing the
3 violation and any corrective action required.

4 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. § 1910 is amended to read:

5 § 1910. RECORDS

6 (a) Information received by the licensing agency through filed reports,
7 inspection, or as otherwise authorized ~~under this~~ by law, shall:

8 (1) ~~not be disclosed publicly in such a manner as to identify individuals~~
9 ~~or hospitals, except in a proceeding involving the question of licensure that~~
10 identifies or may lead to the identification of one or more individuals or
11 hospitals;

12 (2) be exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public
13 Records Act; and

14 (3) be kept confidential except as it relates to a proceeding regarding
15 licensure of a hospital.

16 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to the
17 summary reports of violations required to be posted on the licensing agency's
18 website pursuant to section 1909 of this chapter.

19 Sec. 4. 18 V.S.A. § 9375(b) is amended to read:

20 (b) The Board shall have the following duties:

21 * * *

1 (d) The Commissioner of Health shall publish or otherwise make publicly
2 available on its website each ambulatory surgical center’s performance results
3 from quality reporting programs offered by the Centers for Medicare and
4 Medicaid Services and shall update the information at least annually.

5 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

6 (a) Sec. 1 (18 V.S.A. chapter 49) shall take effect on January 1, 2020,
7 provided that any ambulatory surgical center in operation on that date shall
8 have six months to complete the licensure process.

9 (b) Secs. 2 (18 V.S.A. § 1909) and 3 (18 V.S.A. § 1910) shall take effect
10 on July 1, 2019.

11 (c) Sec. 4 (18 V.S.A. § 9375(b)) and this section shall take effect on
12 passage.

13 (d) Sec. 5 (18 V.S.A. § 9405b) shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

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18 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE