

§§1-3,6
C.26:2H-12.111
to 26:2H-12.114
§4
Note
§5
Approp.

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 402, *approved January 20, 2026*
Assembly, No. 6313

1 **AN ACT** establishing a “Continued Access in Underserved
2 Communities Pilot Program,” supplementing Title 26 of the
3 Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.
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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
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8 1. As used in this act:
9 “Community access location” shall mean a facility that includes
10 the following components and provides the following services to all
11 patients without regard to their ability to pay: (1) forty-eight
12 medical surgical/observation beds with at least twelve acuity
13 adaptable beds capable of providing intensive care; (2) a full service
14 emergency department that complies with 42 U.S.C. 1395dd; (3)
15 inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services; (4) surgical services
16 with general anesthesia that can support more than twenty-four
17 hours of recovery in a surgery center/surgical outpatient department
18 with up to six operating rooms; (5) outpatient clinics; and (6)
19 comprehensive diagnostic imaging services.
20 “Hospital” shall mean a general acute care hospital licensed
21 pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).
22 “Underserved community” means a municipality with a
23 population greater than 30,000 residents in calendar year 2024,
24 according to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development,
25 which has only one hospital within the municipality, and which: (1)
26 is within a Medically Underserved Area or includes a Medically
27 Underserved Population, as designated by the Health Resources and
28 Services Administration in the United States Department of Health
29 and Human Services in 2025; (2) has an Index of Medical
30 Underservice Score, as designated by the Health Resources and
31 Services Administration, that is less than, or equal to, 62.0 in 2025;
32 and (3) has been identified as a medically underserved municipality
33 by the Commissioner of Health based on the New Jersey Medically
34 Underserved Index.
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36 2. a. Notwithstanding the provision of any law or regulation to
37 the contrary, in order to ensure continued access to care for patients
38 residing in underserved communities, the Department of Health

1 shall establish a pilot program known as the “Continued Access in
2 Underserved Communities Pilot Program,” under which a hospital,
3 for which the Department of Health has approved a certificate of
4 need application to relocate from its original location in an
5 underserved community to a property that was owned by the federal
6 government on or before December 31, 2005, may maintain a
7 community access location at the hospital’s original location for the
8 duration of the pilot program.

9 b. The community access location shall operate at the relocated
10 hospital’s original location in an underserved community and under
11 the same license as the relocated hospital and may be:

12 (1) operated as a remote location of the relocated hospital as this
13 term is defined by 42 C.F.R. 413.65; and

14 (2) overseen by the same administration, support departments,
15 and clinical departments as apply to the relocated hospital.

16 c. The Department of Health shall have the authority to grant
17 waivers from the mandatory requirements set forth in this act or any
18 other applicable requirements set forth in N.J.A.C.8:43G-1 et seq.,
19 or its successor regulation, that may be necessary for the hospital to
20 maintain a community access location at its original location in an
21 underserved community pursuant to this act in a manner that
22 facilitates integration with the relocated hospital.

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24 3. a. Any hospital that participates in the pilot program shall
25 apply for and receive financial assistance from the Department of
26 Health to cover the anticipated costs associated with developing and
27 maintaining the services and infrastructure of a community access
28 location or with developing and implementing community health
29 programs that support continued access to care in the underserved
30 community, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, and
31 provided that the participating hospital shall submit an application
32 satisfying the requirements set forth in subsection b. of this section.

33 b. In support of its application pursuant to subsection a. of this
34 section, the hospital shall provide the Department of Health with
35 the following information:

36 (1) the financial data that was submitted in support of the
37 hospital’s approved certificate of need application;

38 (2) a description of the services to be provided at the community
39 access location and the anticipated costs associated with developing
40 and maintaining the services and infrastructure of a community
41 access location at the hospital’s original location; and

42 (3) a description of any proposed community health programs
43 that support continued access to care in the underserved community
44 and the anticipated costs associated with developing and
45 implementing such community health programs.

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47 4. The Commissioner of Health may, in accordance with the
48 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et

1 seq.). adopt rules and regulations as necessary to implement this
2 act.

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4 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
5 Department of Health the sum of \$3,000,000 to provide funding to
6 eligible hospitals in accordance with section 3 of P.L. , c.
7 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). In each fiscal
8 year thereafter for the duration of the pilot program, the Legislature
9 shall appropriate such sums as necessary to support the pilot
10 program, and eligible hospitals shall apply for and receive such
11 appropriations in accordance with section 3 of P.L. , c.
12 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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14 6. a. This act shall take effect immediately and the pilot
15 program shall expire ten years from the date on which a
16 participating hospital has obtained a certificate of occupancy for the
17 relocated hospital, or upon the date on which appropriations are no
18 longer available to support the pilot program, whichever occurs
19 first. Subject to the requirements of this section, the Commissioner
20 of Health may extend the pilot program.

21 b. Notwithstanding subsection a. of this section, upon
22 expiration of the pilot program, a relocated hospital that
23 participated in the pilot program may maintain inpatient and
24 outpatient psychiatric services subject to N.J.A.C.8:33-1 et seq., or
25 its successor regulation, at its original location in accordance with
26 the terms and conditions of the pilot program until such time as the
27 hospital seeks, and the Department of Health approves, an
28 application to modify its license.

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31 STATEMENT

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33 This bill establishes a pilot program to support hospitals that
34 maintain certain services when relocating, and appropriates \$3
35 million.

36 Under the bill, in order to ensure continued access to care for
37 patients residing in underserved communities, the Department of
38 Health is to establish a pilot program known as the “Continued
39 Access in Underserved Communities Pilot Program,” under which a
40 hospital for which the Department of Health has approved a
41 certificate of need application to relocate from its original location
42 in an underserved community to a property that was owned by the
43 federal government on or before December 31, 2005, may maintain
44 a community access location at the hospital’s original location for
45 the duration of the pilot program.

46 The bill provides that the community access location is to
47 operate at the relocated hospital’s original location in an
48 underserved community and under the same license as the relocated

1 hospital and may be: (1) operated as a remote location of the
2 relocated hospital; and (2) overseen by the same administration,
3 support departments, and clinical departments as apply to the
4 relocated hospital. The Department of Health is to have the
5 authority to grant waivers from the mandatory requirements set
6 forth in this bill or any other applicable requirements set forth in
7 N.J.A.C. 8:43G-1 et seq. that may be necessary for the hospital to
8 maintain a community access location at its original location in an
9 underserved community pursuant to the bill's provisions in a
10 manner that facilitates integration with the relocated hospital.

11 Under the bill, any hospital that participates in the pilot program
12 is to apply for and receive financial assistance to cover the
13 anticipated costs associated with developing and maintaining the
14 services and infrastructure of a community access location or with
15 developing and implementing community health programs that
16 support continued access to care in the underserved community,
17 subject to the availability of appropriated funds, and provided that
18 the participating hospital is to submit an application satisfying the
19 requirements set forth in the bill.

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24 Establishes pilot program to support hospitals that maintain
25 certain services when relocating; appropriates \$3 million.