

SENATE, No. 4820

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)
Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE
District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Permits licensed hospitals to establish micro-hospitals under certain conditions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/19/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning micro-hospitals and supplementing Title 26 of
2 the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the conversion or
8 restructuring of existing hospitals into micro-hospitals and the
9 creation of new micro-hospitals may provide an important tool for
10 preserving and ensuring access to healthcare services, particularly
11 in rural and medically underserved communities, by enabling
12 hospitals to maintain essential services in a financially and
13 operationally sustainable manner.

14
15 2. a. As used in this act:

16 “Hospital system” means a group of licensed general acute care
17 hospital facilities owned or controlled by the same legal entity.

18 “Micro-hospital” means an acute care facility operated by a
19 licensed general acute care hospital or hospital system in the State,
20 containing no more than 50 acute care beds. A “micro-hospital”
21 shall not be required to maintain operating rooms or provide
22 surgical services.

23 b. A general acute care hospital licensed pursuant to P.L.1971,
24 c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) or the hospital’s hospital system may
25 establish a micro-hospital in this State, including but not limited to
26 through conversion, restructuring, or right-sizing of an existing
27 licensed general acute care hospital, provided that the micro-
28 hospital is not located within five miles of another unaffiliated
29 licensed general acute care hospital, except that this subsection
30 shall not apply to the conversion, restructuring, or right-sizing of an
31 existing licensed general acute care hospital.

32 c. Nothing in this act shall be construed as permitting an
33 ambulatory surgical facility that is not a licensed general acute care
34 hospital to establish a micro-hospital.

35 d. A micro-hospital established through the conversion,
36 restructuring, or right-sizing of an existing licensed general acute
37 care hospital shall remain a licensed general acute care hospital, and
38 shall not be deemed a new category of health care facility under
39 State law. Such facility may continue to provide emergency,
40 inpatient, outpatient, diagnostic, laboratory, imaging, and other
41 services authorized by the Department of Health.

42
43 3. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules and
44 regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
45 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
46 implement the provisions of this act; however, nothing in this
47 section shall be construed to delay the commissioner's review of an

1 application filed pursuant to this act, prior to the adoption of the
2 rules and regulations.

3

4 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

STATEMENT

8

9 This bill permits a licensed general acute care hospital or
10 hospital system to establish a micro-hospital in this State under
11 certain circumstances.

12 Under the bill, a “micro-hospital” means an acute care facility
13 operated by a licensed general acute care hospital or hospital system
14 in the State, containing no more than 50 acute care beds. A “micro-
15 hospital” is not required to maintain operating rooms or provide
16 surgical services.

17 The bill permits a general acute care hospital licensed or the
18 hospital’s hospital system to establish a micro-hospital in this State,
19 including but not limited to through conversion, restructuring, or
20 right-sizing of an existing licensed general acute care hospital,
21 provided that the micro-hospital is not located within five miles of
22 another unaffiliated licensed general acute care hospital. This
23 restriction does not apply to the conversion, restructuring, or right-
24 sizing of an existing licensed general acute care hospital.

25 The bill provides that an ambulatory surgical facility that is not a
26 licensed general acute care hospital may not establish a micro-
27 hospital.

28 A micro-hospital established through the conversion,
29 restructuring, or right-sizing of an existing licensed general acute
30 care hospital is to remain a licensed general acute care hospital and
31 is not to be deemed a new category of health care facility under
32 State law. The facility may continue to provide emergency,
33 inpatient, outpatient, diagnostic, laboratory, imaging, and other
34 services authorized by the Department of Health.

35 Finally, the bill requires the Commissioner of Health to adopt
36 rules and regulations as necessary to implement the bill. The bill
37 provides that the absence of implementing regulations is not to
38 delay the commissioner’s review of an application filed pursuant to
39 the bill.