

AN ACT

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RELATING TO HEALTH FACILITIES; REQUIRING COORDINATED INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

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Section 1. Section 24-1-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 359, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"24-1-5. LICENSURE OF HEALTH FACILITIES--HEARINGS--APPEALS.--

A. A health facility shall not be operated without a license issued by the department. If a health facility is found to be operating without a license, in order to protect human health or safety, the secretary may issue a cease-and-desist order. The health facility may request a hearing that shall be held in the manner provided in this section. The department may also proceed pursuant to the Health Facility Receivership Act.

B. The department is authorized to make inspections and investigations and to prescribe rules it deems necessary or desirable to promote the health, safety and welfare of persons using health facilities.

C. Except as provided in Subsection F of this section, upon receipt of an application for a license to operate a health facility, the department shall promptly inspect the health facility to determine if it is in compliance with all rules of the department. Applications for hospital licenses shall include evidence that the bylaws or rules of the hospital apply equally to osteopathic and medical physicians. The department shall consolidate the applications and inspections for a hospital that also

operates as a hospital-based primary care clinic.

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D. Upon inspection of a health facility, if the department finds a violation of its rules, the department may deny the application for a license, whether initial or renewal, or it may issue a temporary license. A temporary license shall not be issued for a period exceeding one hundred twenty days, nor shall more than two consecutive temporary licenses be issued.

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E. A one-year nontransferable license shall be issued to any health facility complying with all rules of the department. The license shall be renewable for successive one-year periods, upon filing of a renewal application, if the department is satisfied that the health facility is in compliance with all rules of the department or, if not in compliance with a rule, has been granted a waiver or variance of that rule by the department pursuant to procedures, conditions and guidelines adopted by rule of the department. Licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the licensed premises, except that child-care centers that receive no state or federal funds may apply for and receive from the department a waiver from the requirement that a license be posted or kept on the licensed premises.

F. A health facility that has been inspected and licensed by the department and that has received certification for participation in federal reimbursement programs and that has been fully accredited by the joint commission on accreditation of health care organizations or the American osteopathic association shall be granted a license renewal based on that accreditation. Health facilities receiving less than full accreditation by the joint commission on the accreditation of health care organizations or by the American osteopathic association may be granted a license renewal based on that accreditation. License renewals shall be issued upon

application submitted by the health facility upon forms prescribed by the department.

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This subsection does not limit in any way the department's various duties and responsibilities under other provisions of the Public Health Act or under any other subsection of this section, including any of the department's responsibilities for the health and safety of the public.

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G. The department may charge a reasonable fee not to exceed three dollars (\$3.00) per bed for an inpatient health facility or one hundred dollars (\$100) for any other health facility for each license application, whether initial or renewal, of an annual license or the second consecutive issuance of a temporary license. Fees collected shall not be refundable. All fees collected pursuant to licensure applications shall be deposited with the state treasurer for credit to the general fund.

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H. The department may revoke or suspend the license of a health facility or may impose on a health facility an intermediate sanction and a civil monetary penalty provided in Section 24-1-5.2 NMSA 1978 after notice and an opportunity for a hearing before a hearing officer designated by the department to hear the matter and, except for child-care centers and facilities, may proceed pursuant to the Health Facility Receivership Act upon a determination that the health facility is not in compliance with any rule of the department. If immediate action is required to protect human health and safety, the secretary may suspend a license or impose an intermediate sanction pending a hearing, provided the hearing is held within five working days of the suspension or imposition of the sanction, unless waived by the licensee, and, except for child-care centers and facilities, may proceed ex parte pursuant to the Health Facility Receivership Act.

I. The department shall schedule a hearing pursuant to Subsection H

of this section if the department receives a request for a hearing from a licensee:

(1) within ten working days after receipt by the licensee of notice of suspension, revocation, imposition of an intermediate sanction or civil monetary penalty or denial of an initial or renewal application;

(2) within four working days after receipt by the licensee of an emergency suspension order or emergency intermediate sanction imposition and notice of hearing if the licensee wishes to waive the early hearing scheduled and request a hearing at a later date; or

(3) within five working days after receipt of a cease-and-desist order.

The department shall also provide timely notice to the licensee of the date, time and place of the hearing, identity of the hearing officer, subject matter of the hearing and alleged violations.

J. A hearing held pursuant to provisions of this section shall be conducted in accordance with adjudicatory hearing rules and procedures adopted by rule of the department. The licensee has the right to be represented by counsel, to present all relevant evidence by means of witnesses and books, papers, documents, records, files and other evidence and to examine all opposing witnesses who appear on any matter relevant to the issues. The hearing officer has the power to administer oaths on request of any party and issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum prior to or after the commencement of the hearing to compel discovery and the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books, papers, documents, records, files and other evidence. Documents or records pertaining to abuse, neglect or exploitation of a resident, client or patient of a health facility or other documents, records or files in

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the custody of the human services department or the office of the state long-term care ombudsman at the state agency on aging that are relevant to the alleged violations are discoverable and admissible as evidence in any hearing.

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K. Any party may appeal the final decision of the department pursuant to the provisions of Section 39-3-1.1 NMSA 1978.

L. A complaint about a health facility received by the department pursuant to this section shall be promptly investigated and appropriate action shall be taken if substantiated. The department shall develop a health facilities protocol in conjunction with the human services department, the protective services division of the children, youth and families department, the office of the state long-term care ombudsman and other appropriate agencies to ensure the health, safety and rights of individuals in health facilities. The health facilities' protocol shall require:

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(1) cross-reference among agencies pursuant to this subsection of an allegation of abuse, neglect or exploitation;

(2) an investigation, within the strict priority time frames established by each protocol member's rules, of an allegation or referral of abuse, neglect or exploitation after the department has made a good cause determination that abuse, neglect or exploitation occurred;

(3) an agency to share its investigative information and findings with other agencies, unless otherwise prohibited by law; and

(4) require the receiving agency to accept the information provided pursuant to Paragraph (3) of this subsection as potential evidence to initiate and conduct investigations.

M. A complaint received by the department pursuant to this section

shall not be disclosed publicly in a manner as to identify any individuals or health facilities if upon investigation the complaint is unsubstantiated.

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N. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a child is in imminent danger of abuse or neglect while in the care of a child-care facility, whether or not licensed, or upon the receipt of a report pursuant to Section 32A-4-3 NMSA 1978, the department shall consult with the owner or operator of the child-care facility. Upon a finding of probable cause, the department shall give the owner or operator notice of its intent to suspend operation of the child-care facility and provide an opportunity for a hearing to be held within three working days, unless waived by the owner or operator. Within seven working days from the day of notice, the secretary shall make a decision, and, if it is determined that any child is in imminent danger of abuse or neglect in the child-care facility, the secretary may suspend operation of the child-care facility for a period not in excess of fifteen days. Prior to the date of the hearing, the department shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parents of children in the child-care facility of the notice and opportunity for hearing given to the owner or operator.

O. Nothing contained in this section or in the Public Health Act shall authorize either the secretary or the department to make any inspection or investigation or to prescribe any rules concerning group homes as defined in Section 9-8-13 NMSA 1978 except as are reasonably necessary or desirable to promote the health and safety of persons using group homes."

