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AB-232 Hospitals: seismic safety. (2015-2016)

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Assembly Bill No. 232

CHAPTER 555

An act to amend Section 130060 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor October 07, 2015. Filed with Secretary of State October 07, 2015.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 232, Obernolte. Hospitals: seismic safety.

Existing law, the Alfred E. Alquist Hospital Facilities Seismic Safety Act of 1983, establishes, under the jurisdiction of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, a program of seismic safety building standards for certain hospitals constructed on and after March 7, 1973.

Existing law provides that, after January 1, 2008, a general acute care hospital building that is determined to be a potential risk of collapse or to pose significant loss of life in the event of seismic activity be used only for nonacute care hospital purposes, except that the office may grant a 5-year extension under prescribed circumstances. Existing law also allows the office to grant an additional 2-year extension in specified circumstances.

This bill would authorize a critical access hospital located in the City of Tehachapi to submit a seismic safety extension application, notwithstanding specified deadlines that are earlier than the effective date of this bill, and would require the application to include a timetable, as specified.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the City of Tehachapi.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 130060 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

130060. (a) (1) After January 1, 2008, a general acute care hospital building that is determined to be a potential risk of collapse or pose significant loss of life shall only be used for nonacute care hospital purposes, unless an extension of this deadline has been granted and either of the following occurs before the end of the extension:

(A) A replacement building has been constructed and a certificate of occupancy has been granted by the office for the replacement building.

(B) A retrofit has been performed on the building and a construction final has been obtained by the office.

(2) An extension of the deadline may be granted by the office upon a demonstration by the owner that compliance will result in a loss of health care capacity that may not be provided by other general acute care hospitals within a reasonable proximity. In its request for an extension of the deadline, a hospital shall state why the hospital is unable to comply with the January 1, 2008, deadline requirement.

(3) Prior to granting an extension of the January 1, 2008, deadline pursuant to this section, the office shall do all of the following:

(A) Provide public notice of a hospital's request for an extension of the deadline. The notice, at a minimum, shall be posted on the office's Internet Web site, and shall include the facility's name and identification number, the status of the request, and the beginning and ending dates of the comment period, and shall advise the public of the opportunity to submit public comments pursuant to subparagraph (C). The office shall also provide notice of all requests for the deadline extension directly to interested parties upon request of the interested parties.

(B) Provide copies of extension requests to interested parties within 10 working days to allow interested parties to review and provide comment within the 45-day comment period. The copies shall include those records that are available to the public pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code).

(C) Allow the public to submit written comments on the extension proposal for a period of not less than 45 days from the date of the public notice.

(b) (1) It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this subdivision, to facilitate the process of having more hospital buildings in substantial compliance with this chapter and to take nonconforming general acute care hospital inpatient buildings out of service more quickly.

(2) The functional contiguous grouping of hospital buildings of a general acute care hospital, each of which provides, as the primary source, one or more of the hospital's eight basic services as specified in subdivision (a) of Section 1250, may receive a five-year extension of the January 1, 2008, deadline specified in subdivision (a) of this section pursuant to this subdivision for both structural and nonstructural requirements. A functional contiguous grouping refers to buildings containing one or more basic hospital services that are either attached or connected in a way that is acceptable to the State Department of Health Care Services. These buildings may be either on the existing site or a new site.

(3) To receive the five-year extension, a single building containing all of the basic services or at least one building within the contiguous grouping of hospital buildings shall have obtained a building permit prior to 1973 and this building shall be evaluated and classified as a nonconforming, Structural Performance Category-1 (SPC-1) building. The classification shall be submitted to and accepted by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. The identified hospital building shall be exempt from the requirement in subdivision (a) until January 1, 2013, if the hospital agrees that the basic service or services that were provided in that building shall be provided, on or before January 1, 2013, as follows:

(A) Moved into an existing conforming Structural Performance Category-3 (SPC-3), Structural Performance Category-4 (SPC-4), or Structural Performance Category-5 (SPC-5) and Non-Structural Performance Category-4 (NPC-4) or Non-Structural Performance Category-5 (NPC-5) building.

(B) Relocated to a newly built compliant SPC-5 and NPC-4 or NPC-5 building.

(C) Continued in the building if the building is retrofitted to a SPC-5 and NPC-4 or NPC-5 building.

(4) A five-year extension is also provided to a post-1973 building if the hospital owner informs the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development that the building is classified as SPC-1, SPC-3, or SPC-4 and will be closed to general acute care inpatient service use by January 1, 2013. The basic services in the building shall be relocated into a SPC-5 and NPC-4 or NPC-5 building by January 1, 2013.

(5) SPC-1 buildings, other than the building identified in paragraph (3) or (4), in the contiguous grouping of hospital buildings shall also be exempt from the requirement in subdivision (a) until January 1, 2013. However, on or before January 1, 2013, at a minimum, each of these buildings shall be retrofitted to a SPC-2 and NPC-3 building, or no longer be used for general acute care hospital inpatient services.

(c) On or before March 1, 2001, the office shall establish a schedule of interim work progress deadlines that hospitals shall be required to meet to be eligible for the extension specified in subdivision (b). To receive this extension, the hospital building or buildings shall meet the year 2002 nonstructural requirements.

(d) A hospital building that is eligible for an extension pursuant to this section shall meet the January 1, 2030, nonstructural and structural deadline requirements if the building is to be used for general acute care inpatient services after January 1, 2030.

(e) Upon compliance with subdivision (b), the hospital shall be issued a written notice of compliance by the office. The office shall send a written notice of violation to hospital owners that fail to comply with this section. The office shall make copies of these notices available on its Internet Web site.

(f) (1) A hospital that has received an extension of the January 1, 2008, deadline pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) may request an additional extension of up to two years for a hospital building that it owns or operates and that meets the criteria specified in paragraph (2), (3), or (5).

(2) The office may grant the additional extension if the hospital building subject to the extension meets all of the following criteria:

(A) The hospital building is under construction at the time of the request for extension under this subdivision and the purpose of the construction is to meet the requirements of subdivision (a) to allow the use of the building as a general acute care hospital building after the extension deadline granted by the office pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b).

(B) The hospital building plans were submitted to the office and were deemed ready for review by the office at least four years prior to the applicable deadline for the building. The hospital shall indicate, upon submission of its plans, the SPC-1 building or buildings that will be retrofitted or replaced to meet the requirements of this section as a result of the project.

(C) The hospital received a building permit for the construction described in subparagraph (A) at least two years prior to the applicable deadline for the building.

(D) The hospital submitted a construction timeline at least two years prior to the applicable deadline for the building demonstrating the hospital's intent to meet the applicable deadline. The timeline shall include all of the following:

(i) The projected construction start date.

(ii) The projected construction completion date.

(iii) Identification of the contractor.

(E) The hospital is making reasonable progress toward meeting the timeline set forth in subparagraph (D), but factors beyond the hospital's control make it impossible for the hospital to meet the deadline.

(3) The office may grant the additional extension if the hospital building subject to the extension meets all of the following criteria:

(A) The hospital building is owned by a health care district that has, as owner, received the extension of the January 1, 2008, deadline, but where the hospital is operated by an unaffiliated third-party lessee pursuant to a facility lease that extends at least through December 31, 2009. The district shall file a declaration with the office with a request for an extension stating that, as of the date of the filing, the district has lacked, and continues to lack, unrestricted access to the subject hospital building for seismic planning purposes during the term of the lease, and that the district is under contract with the county to maintain hospital services when the hospital comes under district control. The office shall not grant the extension if an unaffiliated third-party lessee will operate the hospital beyond December 31, 2010.

(B) The hospital building plans were submitted to the office and were deemed ready for review by the office at least four years prior to the applicable deadline for the building. The hospital shall indicate, upon submission of its plans, the SPC-1 building or buildings that will be retrofitted or replaced to meet the requirements of this section as a result of the project.

(C) The hospital received a building permit for the construction described in subparagraph (B) by December 31, 2011.

(D) The hospital submitted, by December 31, 2011, a construction timeline for the building demonstrating the hospital's intent and ability to meet the deadline of December 31, 2014. The timeline shall include all of the following:

(i) The projected construction start date.

(ii) The projected construction completion date.

(iii) Identification of the contractor.

(E) The hospital building is under construction at the time of the request for the extension, the purpose of the construction is to meet the requirements of subdivision (a) to allow the use of the building as a general acute care hospital building after the

extension deadline granted by the office pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b), and the hospital is making reasonable progress toward meeting the timeline set forth in subparagraph (D).

(F) The hospital granted an extension pursuant to this paragraph shall submit an additional status report to the office, equivalent to that required by subdivision (c) of Section 130061, no later than June 30, 2013.

(4) An extension granted pursuant to paragraph (3) shall be applicable only to the health care district applicant and its affiliated hospital while the hospital is operated by the district or an entity under the control of the district.

(5) The office may grant the additional extension if the hospital building subject to the extension meets all of the following criteria:

(A) The hospital owner submitted to the office, prior to June 30, 2009, a request for review using current computer modeling utilized by the office and based upon software developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), referred to as Hazards US, and the building was deemed SPC-1 after that review.

(B) The hospital building plans for the building are submitted to the office and deemed ready for review by the office prior to July 1, 2010. The hospital shall indicate, upon submission of its plans, the SPC-1 building or buildings that shall be retrofitted or replaced to meet the requirements of this section as a result of the project.

(C) The hospital receives a building permit from the office for the construction described in subparagraph (B) prior to January 1, 2012.

(D) The hospital submits, prior to January 1, 2012, a construction timeline for the building demonstrating the hospital's intent and ability to meet the applicable deadline. The timeline shall include all of the following:

(i) The projected construction start date.

(ii) The projected construction completion date.

(iii) Identification of the contractor.

(E) The hospital building is under construction at the time of the request for the extension, the purpose of the construction is to meet the requirements of subdivision (a) to allow the use of the building as a general acute care hospital building after the extension deadline granted by the office pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b), and the hospital is making reasonable progress toward meeting the timeline set forth in subparagraph (D).

(F) The hospital owner completes construction such that the hospital meets all criteria to enable the office to issue a certificate of occupancy by the applicable deadline for the building.

(6) A hospital located in the County of Sacramento, San Mateo, or Santa Barbara or the City of San Jose or the City of Willits that has received an additional extension pursuant to paragraph (2) or (5) may request an additional extension until September 1, 2015, to obtain either a certificate of occupancy from the office for a replacement building, or a construction final from the office for a building on which a retrofit has been performed.

(7) A hospital denied an extension pursuant to this subdivision may appeal the denial to the Hospital Building Safety Board.

(8) The office may revoke an extension granted pursuant to this subdivision for any hospital building where the work of construction is abandoned or suspended for a period of at least one year, unless the hospital demonstrates in a public document that the abandonment or suspension was caused by factors beyond its control.

(g) (1) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a), (b), (c), and (f), and Sections 130061.5 and 130064, a hospital that has received an extension of the January 1, 2008, deadline pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) also may request an additional extension of up to seven years for a hospital building that it owns or operates. The office may grant the extension subject to the hospital meeting the milestones set forth in paragraph (2).

(2) The hospital building subject to the extension shall meet all of the following milestones, unless the hospital building is reclassified as SPC-2 or higher as a result of its Hazards US score:

(A) The hospital owner submits to the office, no later than September 30, 2012, a letter of intent stating whether it intends to rebuild, replace, or retrofit the building, or remove all general acute care beds and services from the building, and the amount of time necessary to complete the construction.

(B) The hospital owner submits to the office, no later than September 30, 2012, a schedule detailing why the requested extension is necessary, and specifically how the hospital intends to meet the requested deadline.

(C) The hospital owner submits to the office, no later than September 30, 2012, an application ready for review seeking structural reassessment of each of its SPC-1 buildings using current computer modeling based upon software developed by FEMA, referred to as Hazards US.

(D) The hospital owner submits to the office, no later than January 1, 2015, plans ready for review consistent with the letter of intent submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) and the schedule submitted pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(E) The hospital owner submits a financial report to the office at the time the plans are submitted pursuant to subparagraph (D). The report shall demonstrate the hospital owner's financial capacity to implement the construction plans submitted pursuant to subparagraph (D).

(F) The hospital owner receives a building permit consistent with the letter of intent submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) and the schedule submitted pursuant to subparagraph (B), no later than July 1, 2018.

(3) To evaluate public safety and determine whether to grant an extension of the deadline, the office shall consider the structural integrity of the hospital's SPC-1 buildings based on its Hazards US scores, community access to essential hospital services, and the hospital owner's financial capacity to meet the deadline as determined by either a bond rating of BBB or below or the financial report on the hospital owner's financial capacity submitted pursuant to subparagraph (E) of paragraph (2). The criteria contained in this paragraph shall be considered by the office in its determination of the length of an extension or whether an extension should be granted.

(4) The extension or subsequent adjustments granted pursuant to this subdivision may not exceed the amount of time that is reasonably necessary to complete the construction specified in paragraph (2).

(5) If the circumstances underlying the request for extension submitted to the office pursuant to paragraph (2) change, the hospital owner shall notify the office as soon as practicable, but in no event later than six months after the hospital owner discovered the change of circumstances. The office may adjust the length of the extension granted pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3) as necessary, but in no event longer than the period specified in paragraph (1).

(6) A hospital denied an extension pursuant to this subdivision may appeal the denial to the Hospital Building Safety Board.

(7) The office may revoke an extension granted pursuant to this subdivision for any hospital building when it is determined that any information submitted pursuant to this section was falsified, or if the hospital failed to meet a milestone set forth in paragraph (2), or where the work of construction is abandoned or suspended for a period of at least six months, unless the hospital demonstrates in a publicly available document that the abandonment or suspension was caused by factors beyond its control.

(8) Regulatory submissions made by the office to the California Building Standards Commission to implement this section shall be deemed to be emergency regulations and shall be adopted as emergency regulations.

(9) The hospital owner that applies for an extension pursuant to this subdivision shall pay the office an additional fee, to be determined by the office, sufficient to cover the additional reasonable costs incurred by the office for maintaining the additional reporting requirements established under this section, including, but not limited to, the costs of reviewing and verifying the extension documentation submitted pursuant to this subdivision. This additional fee shall not include any cost for review of the plans or other duties related to receiving a building or occupancy permit.

(10) This subdivision shall become operative on the date that the State Department of Health Care Services receives all necessary federal approvals for a 2011–12 fiscal year hospital quality assurance fee program that includes three hundred twenty million dollars (\$320,000,000) in fee revenue to pay for health care coverage for children, which is made available as a result of the legislative enactment of a 2011–12 fiscal year hospital quality assurance fee program.

(h) A critical access hospital located in the City of Tehachapi may submit a seismic safety extension application pursuant to subdivision (g), notwithstanding deadlines in that subdivision that are earlier than the effective date of the act that added this subdivision. The submitted application shall include a timetable as required pursuant to subdivision (g).

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of the special circumstances in the City of Tehachapi relating to access to critical health care services.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

To prevent the loss of hospital licensure and Medicaid and Medicare funding that would lead to closure of a critical access hospital and a loss of access to health care in the City of Tehachapi, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.