

"AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO LICENSE HOSPITALS WHICH HAVE DISCONTINUED IN-PATIENT SERVICES TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. The State Health Department is hereby empowered to license under Act 414 of 1961, as amended, hospitals which have discontinued in-patient services to continue to provide emergency services. The emergency services facilities shall be subject to inspection and to all other provisions of Act 414 of 1961, as amended, and all regulations promulgated thereunder. Hospital emergency services facilities licensed under this Act shall not be required to obtain a certificate of need or any other permit other than that prescribed by this Act.

SECTION 2. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Emergency. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that some hospitals around the State are discontinuing their in-patient services and as a result also are closing their emergency room services; that this Act would allow the continued operation of hospital emergency services even when the in-patient services have been discontinued; that until this Act becomes effective some portions of the State may be without adequate hospital emergency services and therefore this Act should go into effect immediately. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

APPROVED: 4/1/87

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