

SECTION 3. -- AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, with the exception of Section 19-118.1 of the Health General Article, as added by this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 1985.

SECTION 4. -- AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 19-118.1 of the Health General Article, as added by this Act, shall take effect February 1, 1986. -- It shall remain effective for a period of three years and, at the end of January 31, 1989, and with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 19-118.1 of the Health General Article shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved May 21, 1985.

CHAPTER 109

(Senate Bill 655)

AN ACT concerning

Health Care Cost Containment - Hospital Mergers and Consolidations

FOR the purpose of encouraging the voluntary reduction of excess capacity in the health care system by exempting the voluntary closure, merger, consolidation, or conversion of certain health care facilities from certificate of need review under certain circumstances; adding a requirement to the State Health Plan relating to alternative uses; requiring the Health Resources Planning Commission to develop and adopt an institution specific plan under certain procedures for possible capacity reduction; requiring the institution specific plan to address certain issues; providing for the use of the institution specific plan; providing for the prevalence of the institution specific plan for a certain time period where there are conflicts with the State Health Plan; requiring the Health Resources Planning Commission to incorporate the institution specific plan into the State Health Plan within certain time periods; requiring a facility to file certain information with the Health Resources Planning Commission relating to a merger or consolidation; requiring the Health Services Cost Review Commission to review the rates of a hospital affected by a merger or consolidation under certain circumstances; authorizing the Health Resources Planning Commission to approve the merger or consolidation of hospitals under certain circumstances despite the effect on economic competition; exempting a hospital merger or consolidation from antitrust provisions under certain circumstances;