

REGULATORY UPDATE

Platt HMC, Inc.

Healthcare Management Consulting

Georgia Legislative Update—Repeal of Certificate Of Need House Bill 1055

February 22, 2016

Submitted recently to the Georgia House of Representatives is House Bill 1055 that would eliminate the Certificate of Need Rules in Georgia. According to the Bill, *“the free market provides the best means of providing the highest quality care at the lowest possible cost.”* If enacted into law, the legislation would repeal the Certificate of Need construct in Georgia effective December 31, 2017.

Sponsors of the House Bill include the representative from Sandy Springs, Wendell Willard, who also sponsored the House Bill last year seeking to allow Cancer Treatment Center of America in Newnan, Georgia to expand its provision of coverage in the State (CTCA’s approval was based on a provision that it would provide no more than 35% of its care to Georgia citizens). Other sponsors are Richard Smith of Columbus, House Minority Whip Carolyn Hugley of Columbus, and Matthew Hatchett of Dublin.

The House Bill yet to be read before the house as of February 22. The Bill sponsors will have to act quickly, as Crossover Day at the State Legislature is February 29, 2016 a week away. Crossover Day is the deadline for a bill to be passed by at least one chamber of the State Legislature. If House Bill 1055 has not been approved by one chamber of the Legislature before Crossover Day, then it is deemed “dead” for the current legislative session.