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S.F. No. 4382 – Notice and public hearings for hospital closures, curtailment of operations, relocation of services, and cessation of certain services

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Section 1 amends Minnesota Statutes, section **144.555, subdivision 1a** by extending from 120 days to 300 days the advanced notice a hospital must provide prior to voluntarily closing a hospital or ceasing, curtailing, or relocating hospital services.

Section 2 amends Minnesota Statutes, section **144.555, subdivision 1b** by reducing from 45 days to 30 days the time between the hospital providing notice of a voluntary closure or ceasing, curtailing, or relocating hospital services and the required public hearing. This section also requires the public hearing to be held at a location within ten miles of the affected hospital and to allow for public viewing of and participation in the hearing via video conferencing.

Section 3 adds Minnesota Statutes, section **144.555, subdivision 1d**, “Methods of providing notice; content of notice,” which specifies under paragraph (a) six required methods of providing to the commissioner of health, the public, and others notice of a voluntarily closure of a hospital or of ceasing, curtailing, or relocating hospital services. Paragraph (b) specifies nine required elements of the notice.

Section 4 amends Minnesota Statutes, **section 144.555, subdivision 2**, by making conforming changes.

Section 5 adds Minnesota Statutes, section **144.555, subdivision 3**, which moves existing enforcement language from section 144.555, subdivision 2, into paragraph (a) and requires the commissioner to issue a fine, subject to an appeal hearing, for each failure to provide the required notices.

Section 6 adds Minnesota Statutes, section **144.556**, “Right of first refusal; sale of hospital or hospital campus,” which requires the controlling person of a hospital to make a good faith offer to

sell or convey a hospital to the home rule charter or statutory city, county, town, or hospital district in which the hospital or hospital campus is located at least 60 days before selling it to another party or ceasing operations.