

S.F. No. 1861 – Modifying license conditions for certain hospital swing beds

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Date: March 3, 2025

S.F. No. 1861 (amends Minn. Stat. § 144.562, subd. 3) exempts any critical access hospital with an attached nursing home in Cook County from certain limitations on the use of hospital swing beds. A swing bed is a service that allows a hospital patient to transition from acute care to skilled nursing facility care without leaving the hospital.

As a license condition for swing beds for certain hospitals, current law provides that hospitals must agree to limit the length of stay for patients receiving services in a swing bed to not more than 40 days or the duration of Medicare eligibility, except upon approval from the commissioner of health for a longer stay in an emergency situation. Current law also provides that hospitals must agree to limit admission to a swing bed only to patients who have been hospitalized and not yet discharged from the facility, or to patients who are transferred directly from an acute care hospital. **S.F. No. 1861** exempts a qualifying Cook County hospital from the above requirements.

S.F. No. 1861 provides that any swing bed at a qualifying Cook County hospital may be used to provide nursing facility services without requiring a prior hospital stay, and that services provided are covered medical assistance services and eligible for medical assistance reimbursement.

