

House Bill 967 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Martin of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Barnard of the 166<sup>th</sup>, and Forster of the 3<sup>rd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 31-6-47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 exemptions from the certificate of need program, so as to exempt prisons and other secure  
3 correctional institutions of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Juvenile  
4 Justice from certificate of need requirements; to provide for legislative findings; to provide  
5 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 The General Assembly finds that the safety of the citizens of this state is an important and  
9 primary goal for the well-being of this state. The General Assembly also recognizes that  
10 there is an obligation to provide certain medical treatment to prisoners in penal institutions  
11 in this state. The General Assembly further finds that transporting prisoners to community  
12 hospitals for medical treatment presents a difficult situation of controlling the detainment of  
13 prisoners while ensuring the safety of the general public. To this end, some penal institutions  
14 may elect to establish medical facilities in such institutions to provide the most secure option  
15 for rendering medical treatment to prisoners. It is the belief of the General Assembly that  
16 for purposes of public safety and because these medical facilities do not compete with  
17 hospitals open to the public, penal institutions should not have to obtain a certificate of need  
18 for the establishment of such medical facilities.

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Code Section 31-6-47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to exemptions  
21 from the certificate of need program, is amended by striking the "and" at the end of  
22 paragraph (15) of subsection (a), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (16) of  
23 subsection (a) and replacing it with "; and", and by adding a new paragraph to the end of  
24 subsection (a) to read as follows:

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