

ASSEMBLY, No. 5977

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for establishment of Regional Health Hub Program as replacement to Accountable Care Organization Demonstration Project, and designates existing accountable care organizations and look-alike organizations as Regional Health Hubs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/6/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of a Regional Health Hub
2 Program as a replacement to the Accountable Care Organization
3 Demonstration Project, and supplementing Title 30 of the
4 Revised Statutes.

5
6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

8
9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. Significant State resources are invested in both the health
11 and social service sectors in New Jersey, and the development of
12 improvements in how Medicaid benefits and payment models
13 interact with social services would provide a benefit to all New
14 Jersey residents.

15 b. A more regional approach to care, involving the coordinated
16 provision of person-centered health care in combination with robust
17 connections to social services and community resources, is required
18 at both the patient and organizational levels.

19 c. It is in New Jersey's best interest to establish a regional
20 network of non-profit organizations that partner with Medicaid and
21 State agencies to reduce health disparities and improve health
22 outcomes and the delivery of care for Medicaid recipients in the
23 State. Such non-profit organizations have the capacity to become
24 local innovation engines that use real-time actionable data and
25 diverse stakeholder input to develop and implement innovative
26 models for the delivery of effective, person-centered care.

27 d. It is both reasonable and appropriate for the Department of
28 Human Services to designate and recognize existing accountable
29 care organizations as Regional Health Hubs, and to establish new
30 Regional Health Hubs in appropriate areas of the State, as provided
31 by this act, in order to enable the State to:

32 (1) identify existing and emerging threats to health and
33 wellbeing, and problems with the State's regional health care
34 delivery systems, and identify and determine how to implement
35 solutions to those problems;

36 (2) promote and facilitate cooperation, coordination, innovation,
37 and goal setting by and among relevant stakeholders;

38 (3) evaluate the progress that has been made in achieving
39 identified goals and priorities; and

40 (4) otherwise encourage and enable the overall improvement of
41 the health of New Jersey residents and the delivery of health care
42 throughout the State.

43
44 2. As used in this act:

45 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

46 "Core region" means the geographic area of responsibility for a
47 Regional Health Hub.

48 "Data catchment area" means the zip codes in New Jersey for

1 which a Regional Health Hub receives Medicaid claims data.

2 “Department” means the Department of Human Services.

3 “Existing Regional Health Hub” means those four organizations
4 designated as Regional Health Hubs by the FY20 New Jersey State
5 Budget, P.L.2019, c.150 and identified in subsection b. of section 3
6 of this act.

7 “Health information platform” means a Health Information
8 Exchange (HIE) or other electronic platform that is used to run
9 population-level analytics or exchange health information among
10 various organizations.

11 “New Regional Health Hub” means an entity that is designated
12 by the commissioner as a Regional Health Hub after the effective
13 date of, and as provided by, this act.

14 “Prospective service region” or “prospective region” means a
15 geographical area that is designated by the commissioner, pursuant
16 to subsection a. of section 4 of this act, as being in need of a
17 Regional Health Hub.

18 “Regional Health Hub” means any entity that is designated as a
19 Regional Health Hub, as provided by this act, including an existing
20 Regional Health Hub or a new Regional Health Hub.

21

22 3. a. The Department of Human Services shall establish a
23 Regional Health Hub Program, and shall designate and certify
24 Regional Health Hubs in appropriate areas of the State, as provided
25 by this act. The Regional Health Hub Program shall replace the
26 Medicaid Accountable Care Organization Demonstration Project
27 established pursuant to P.L.2011, c.114 (C.30:4D-8.1 et seq.),
28 which is now subject to expiration by law.

29 b. The following certified accountable care organizations and
30 accountable care look-alike organizations, which are operating in
31 this State as of the effective date of this act, shall be grandfathered
32 into the Regional Health Hub Program, and shall be automatically
33 designated and certified as Regional Health Hubs, for the purposes
34 of this act:

- 35 (1) the Healthy Greater Newark ACO;
36 (2) the Trenton Health Team;
37 (3) the Camden Coalition of Health Care Providers; and
38 (4) the Health Coalition of Passaic County.

39 c. (1) The Department of Human Services, in consultation with
40 the Department of Health, shall be authorized to designate and
41 certify additional non-profit organizations to operate as Regional
42 Health Hubs under the Regional Health Hub Program, pursuant to
43 section 4 of this act, as determined to be appropriate.

44

45 4. a. The commissioner shall designate and delineate the
46 boundaries of regions of the State that are in need of new Regional
47 Health Hubs.

1 b. The commissioner's designation and delineation of
2 prospective service regions for new Regional Health Hubs shall be
3 based on the following factors:

4 (1) the availability of State and federal funding necessary to
5 support the new Regional Health Hub, and the State's ability to
6 provide necessary funding without negatively impacting the
7 operation and effectiveness of other Regional Health Hubs in the
8 State;

9 (2) the number and density of Medicaid beneficiaries in the
10 region;

11 (3) the existence, in the region, of multiple health and social
12 service systems of care that are in need of convening and
13 coordination; and

14 (4) the volume, in the region, of avoidable inpatient hospital
15 admissions and emergency department visits.

16 c. Based on the analysis of factors identified in subsection b. of
17 this section, the commissioner may designate any county, zip code,
18 or group of zip codes in the State as a prospective service region.
19 The boundaries of any prospective service region designated under
20 this section shall not include any portion of a core region served by
21 another Regional Health Hub.

22 d. Once an area has been designated by the commissioner as a
23 prospective service region, the commissioner shall solicit and
24 review applications from qualified non-profit organizations that
25 wish to be designated and certified as the new Regional Health Hub
26 for the prospective service region. The commissioner shall only
27 designate and certify an organization as a new Regional Health Hub
28 if the organization:

29 (1) is a registered New Jersey non-profit organization exempt
30 from federal taxation under 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)3;

31 (2) submits a request identifying the proposed boundaries of the
32 Regional Health Hub's anticipated core region, which boundaries
33 shall include the total area of a prospective service region
34 designated by the commissioner, and shall not include any area that
35 is already included in another Regional Health Hub's core region;
36 and

37 (3) submits a request identifying the proposed boundaries of the
38 Regional Health Hub's anticipated data catchment area.

39 e. Within 180 days after an organization is approved to operate
40 as a Regional Health Hub, the organization shall:

41 (1) establish and maintain a headquarters within the boundaries
42 of the core region;

43 (2) establish and convene an advisory committee of persons who
44 reside or work in the core region, which committee shall include
45 community members and representatives from organizations that
46 exemplify the diversity of geography, gender, disability, age, sexual
47 orientation, veterans' status, and prevalent health conditions in the
48 core region. The following types of persons may be included in an

1 advisory committee established under this paragraph: (a)
2 community members having lived experience with the health care
3 system; (b) Medicaid beneficiaries; (c) representatives from school
4 districts; (d) representatives of local government; (e) representatives
5 of housing organizations; and (f) representatives of the faith-based
6 community;

7 (3) establish and convene a governing board that includes
8 members from a majority of the following groups and entities, to
9 the extent that such groups and entities are present in the core
10 region: (a) hospitals or hospital systems; (b) Federally Qualified
11 Health Centers; (c) private clinicians, including physicians and
12 nurses; (d) community-based organizations such as behavioral
13 health providers and social service agencies; (e) managed care
14 organizations; (f) the advisory committee established pursuant to
15 paragraph (2) of this subsection; and (g) health care consumers; and

16 (4) demonstrate, to the commissioner's satisfaction, the ability
17 to perform the mandatory functions of a Regional Health Hub, as
18 described in subsection a. of section 6 of this act.

19 f. If more than one organization meets the criteria for
20 designation as a Regional Health Hub in a prospective service
21 region, the commissioner, in the commissioner's discretion, shall
22 designate the organization that the commissioner determines will be
23 best able to meet the needs of, and fulfill the purposes of this act
24 within, the prospective service region.

25 g. Before approving an application to become a Regional
26 Health Hub under this section, the commissioner shall review each
27 of the boundary requests submitted by the applicant under
28 paragraphs (6) and (7) of subsection d. of this section, and shall
29 either approve the requests, as submitted by the applicant, or require
30 the applicant to make appropriate modifications to the boundary
31 requests as a precondition to their approval. If a boundary request
32 cannot be modified as necessary to comply with the provisions of
33 this act, the commissioner shall select another applicant to serve as
34 the Regional Health Hub in the proposed service region.

35 h. A designated Regional Health Hub may submit an
36 application to the commissioner, at any time, requesting the
37 expansion of its core region. The commissioner shall approve the
38 requested expansion if:

39 (1) the boundaries of the expanded core region will not overlap
40 with the core region of another Regional Health Hub;

41 (2) the area would otherwise qualify for designation as a
42 prospective service region under subsection b. of section 4 of this
43 act; and

44 (3) the applicant demonstrates, to the commissioner's
45 satisfaction, the applicant's ability to perform, in the requested
46 expansion area, and within one year following submission of the
47 application, the mandatory activities of a Regional Health Hub, as
48 described in subsection a. of section 6 of this act.

1 5. a. The commissioner may revoke an organization’s status as
2 a Regional Health Hub if the organization fails to perform the
3 mandatory activities of a Regional Health Hub, as described in
4 subsection a. of section 6 of this act.

5 b. Before revoking an organization’s status as a Regional
6 Health Hub, the commissioner shall notify the organization of the
7 potential revocation and provide a reasonable timeframe for
8 corrective action.

9 c. The commissioner’s revocation of Regional Health Hub
10 status shall be a final agency action for the purposes of the
11 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
12 seq.).

13 d. After revoking an organization’s status as a Regional Health
14 Hub, the commissioner shall immediately determine whether a new
15 Regional Health Hub is needed in the area where status was
16 revoked. If such need is determined to exist, the commissioner
17 shall designate a new Regional Health Hub to serve the area, as
18 provided by subsection d. of section 4 of this act.

19

20 6. a. Each designated Regional Health Hub shall engage in the
21 following mandatory activities:

22 (1) establish, operate, and maintain a health information
23 platform that allows for population-level views and analytics, and
24 patient-level health interventions. Unless annually exempted by the
25 commissioner, each Regional Health Hub’s health information
26 platform shall, to the extent practicable, be interoperable with all
27 other Regional Health Hubs’ platforms, and with any other
28 Statewide health information project designated by the
29 commissioner;

30 (2) convene and obtain relevant input from community
31 stakeholders within the Regional Health Hub’s core region. At a
32 minimum, convening activities shall include quarterly opportunities
33 for the active engagement and interaction of relevant stakeholders,
34 including, but not limited to, managed care organizations, local and
35 State government entities, health care and social service providers,
36 community-based organizations, and local consumers of health
37 care; (3) upon request, provide the department and other State
38 agencies, including the Departments of Health, Children and
39 Families, and Community Affairs, with information and feedback to
40 assist the departments in program design, population analysis,
41 strategic planning, and other appropriate functions; and

42 (4) engage in any other activity that the commissioner deems
43 necessary to achieve the goals of this act.

44 b. Each designated Regional Health Hub shall be authorized to
45 engage in the following activities as necessary either to further the
46 Regional Health Hub’s goals or to comport with the provisions of a
47 memorandum of understanding executed between the Regional
48 Health Hub and the department pursuant to section 7 of this act:

- 1 (1) plan and execute population-level and patient-level health
2 interventions;
 - 3 (2) establish, operate, and maintain, or partner with a third-party
4 who will establish, operate, and maintain, a community resource
5 inventory that is capable of referring and tracking the referral of
6 community members to appropriate services;
 - 7 (3) perform a health needs assessment on all or part of the
8 population in the Regional Health Hub's core region;
 - 9 (4) perform quality improvement activities based on population-
10 level data and health needs assessment findings;
 - 11 (5) develop screening protocols that provide for a
12 comprehensive risk assessment to determine a patient's need for
13 follow-up and wrap-around services related to the social
14 determinants of health;
 - 15 (6) facilitate the coordination, within the Regional Health Hub's
16 core region, of health care and ancillary services related to the
17 social determinants of health, including, but not limited to, food
18 assistance services, legal services, and other social services, for
19 high-need populations;
 - 20 (7) provide care management services to the entire population,
21 or to underserved sub-populations, in the Regional Health Hub's
22 core region;
 - 23 (8) submit an annual report to the commissioner describing the
24 health needs in the Regional Health Hub's core region, identifying
25 the Regional Health Hub's near and long-term health goals for the
26 core region, and describing the activities that have been undertaken,
27 and the progress that has been made, over the preceding year, by the
28 Regional Health Hub and relevant stakeholders in the core region to
29 improve the effectiveness or efficiency of the core region's health
30 care system; and
 - 31 (9) engage in any other appropriate activity that the
32 commissioner or Regional Health Hub deems relevant to the
33 attainment of the Regional Health Hub's goals.
- 34 c. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the activities
35 that a Regional Health Hub may conduct on behalf of other State
36 departments or funders.
37
- 38 7. a. A Regional Health Hub may annually enter into a
39 memorandum of understanding with the department, describing the
40 Regional Health Hub's annual goals, and the elective activities that
41 the Regional Health Hub will undertake during the upcoming fiscal
42 year.
 - 43 b. In order to facilitate the annual execution of memoranda of
44 understanding under this section, the department shall annually
45 provide each Regional Health Hub with a list of the department's
46 goals, projects, or priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.
 - 47 c. Any Regional Health Hub wishing to enter into a
48 memorandum of understanding with the department shall first

1 convene an annual planning meeting of stakeholders within the
2 Regional Health Hub's core region in order to identify potential
3 goals, projects, and priorities for the core region. The convening of
4 a meeting under this subsection may overlap with the Regional
5 Health Hub's duties under paragraph (2) of subsection a. of section
6 of this act.

7 d. When executing a memorandum of understanding under this
8 section, the department and relevant Regional Health Hub shall
9 negotiate joint goals, projects, and priorities for the upcoming fiscal
10 year, and agree upon the associated funding that will be needed to
11 accomplish those joint goals, projects, and priorities.

12 e. Each memorandum of understanding executed pursuant to
13 this section shall include, at a minimum:

14 (1) a description of the joint goals, projects, and priorities
15 agreed upon by the Regional Health Hub and the department for the
16 upcoming fiscal year pursuant to subsection d. of this section;

17 (2) an indication of the amount of funding that will be needed to
18 attain each joint goal, project, and priority identified in the
19 memorandum of understanding, and an indication of the total
20 amount of funding, overall, that will be needed to execute the
21 memorandum of understanding;

22 (3) a description of the clear deliverables and performance
23 metrics that will be used to evaluate and measure success in relation
24 to the achievement of the goals, projects, and priorities described in
25 the memorandum of understanding; and

26 (4) a description of performance-based payments, representing
27 at least 10 percent but not more than 25 percent of the total funding
28 needed to execute the memorandum of understanding, which
29 payments will be tied to the achievement of the clear deliverables
30 described in paragraph (3) of this subsection.

31

32 8. a. A health information platform operated pursuant to
33 paragraph (1) of subsection a. of section 6 of this act shall contain
34 detailed health data from the Regional Health Hub's core region,
35 including macro-level analytics of broad population trends, and
36 micro-level analytics of both individual health data, and disease
37 trends by category of disease, age group, or other subset.

38 b. Each hospital in the State shall be required to submit
39 pertinent patient data to the health information platform that is
40 maintained by the Regional Health Hub operating in the same
41 region of the State in which the hospital is located, or, if there is no
42 Regional Health Hub operating in the region, to the health
43 information platform that is maintained by the Regional Health Hub
44 that is closest in geography to the hospital. The data submitted
45 pursuant to this paragraph shall be provided on a real-time basis, to
46 the extent practicable, and in no case, less frequently than daily.

47 c. Each managed care organization operating in the State shall
48 be required to share all relevant health data with each health

1 information platform that is maintained in a region of the State in
2 which the managed care organization provides services to patients.

3 d. The Departments of Human Services, Health, Children and
4 Families, and Community Affairs shall be authorized to share with
5 the health information platforms established, or the Regional Health
6 Hubs designated, pursuant to this act, any available health data that
7 is maintained by the departments.

8
9 9. Any State department that implements a pilot program
10 related to health care delivery shall be encouraged to consult with
11 the Regional Health Hubs operating in the regions of the State that
12 will be affected by the pilot program, in order to ensure that all
13 relevant considerations have been accounted for, and that the pilot
14 program is effectively and efficiently implemented with the
15 assistance of all relevant stakeholders.

16
17 10. In addition to utilizing any State-appropriated funding that
18 supports Regional Health Hubs, the Commissioner of Human
19 Services shall apply for such State plan amendments or waivers as
20 may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act, and to
21 secure federal financial participation for State Medicaid
22 expenditures under the federal Medicaid program, and shall take
23 such additional steps as may be necessary to secure, on behalf of
24 participating Regional Health Hubs, such waivers, exemptions, or
25 advisory opinions to ensure that such Regional Health Hubs are in
26 compliance with applicable provisions of State and federal law
27 related to fraud and abuse, including, but not limited to, anti-
28 kickback, self-referral, false claim, and civil monetary penalty
29 provisions.

30
31 11. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and
32 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
33 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
34 implement the provisions of this act.

35
36 12. This act shall take effect immediately.

37
38

39 STATEMENT

40

41 This bill would require the Department of Human Services
42 (DHS) to establish a Regional Health Hub Program, and designate
43 and certify Regional Health Hubs in appropriate areas of the State.
44 The new Regional Health Hub Program will replace the Medicaid
45 Accountable Care Organization Demonstration Project, established
46 pursuant to P.L.2011, c.114 (C.30:4D-8.1 et seq.), which is now
47 subject to expiration by law. Each Regional Health Hub will work
48 to coordinate and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of health

1 care and wrap-around services, and the engagement and cooperation
2 of relevant stakeholders, in the region of the State in which it
3 operates.

4 The following certified accountable care organizations and
5 accountable care look-alike organizations, which are operating in
6 this State as of the bill's effective date, are to be grandfathered into
7 the Regional Health Hub Program, and automatically designated
8 and certified as Regional Health Hubs: 1) the Healthy Greater
9 Newark ACO; 2) the Trenton Health Team; 3) the Camden
10 Coalition of Health Care Providers; and 4) the Health Coalition of
11 Passaic County.

12 The DHS, in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH),
13 will also be authorized to designate and certify additional non-profit
14 organizations to operate as Regional Health Hubs under the
15 Regional Health Hub Program, as determined to be appropriate.

16 The bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to
17 designate and delineate the boundaries of each region of the State
18 that is in need of a new Regional Health Hub. The commissioner's
19 delineation of prospective service regions is to be based on the
20 following factors: 1) the availability of State and federal funding
21 necessary to support the new Regional Health Hub, and the State's
22 ability to provide necessary funding without negatively impacting
23 the operation and effectiveness of other Regional Health Hubs in
24 the State; 2) the number and density of Medicaid beneficiaries in
25 the region; 3) the existence, in the region, of multiple health and
26 social service systems of care that are in need of convening and
27 coordination; and 4) the volume, in the region, of avoidable
28 inpatient hospital admissions and emergency department visits.
29 Based on the analysis of these factors, the commissioner may
30 designate any county, zip code, or group of zip codes in the State as
31 a prospective service region. However, the boundaries of any
32 prospective service region may not include any portion of a core
33 region served by another Regional Health Hub.

34 Once an area has been designated by the commissioner as a
35 prospective service region, the commissioner will be required to
36 solicit and review applications from qualified non-profit
37 organizations that wish to be designated and certified as the new
38 Regional Health Hub for the prospective region. The commissioner
39 will only be authorized to designate and certify an organization as a
40 new Regional Health Hub if the organization is a registered New
41 Jersey non-profit organization exempt from federal taxation under
42 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)3, and the organization submits a request
43 identifying the proposed boundaries of the Regional Health Hub's
44 anticipated core region, and an additional request identifying the
45 proposed boundaries of the Regional Health Hub's anticipated data
46 catchment area. If more than one organization meets the criteria for
47 designation as a Regional Health Hub in a prospective service
48 region, the commissioner will be required to use his or her

1 discretion to designate the organization that the commissioner
2 determines will be best able to meet the needs of, and fulfill the
3 bill's purposes within, the prospective service region.

4 Within 180 days after an organization is approved to operate as a
5 Regional Health Hub, the organization will be required to:

6 1) establish and maintain a headquarters within the boundaries
7 of the core region;

8 2) establish and convene an advisory committee of persons who
9 reside or work in the core region, which committee is to include
10 community members and representatives from organizations that
11 exemplify the diversity of geography, gender, disability, age, sexual
12 orientation, veterans' status, and prevalent health conditions in the
13 core region;

14 3) establish and convene a governing board that includes
15 members from a majority of the following groups and entities, to
16 the extent that such groups and entities are present in the core
17 region: (a) hospitals or hospital systems; (b) Federally Qualified
18 Health Centers; (c) private clinicians, including physicians and
19 nurses; (d) community-based organizations such as behavioral
20 health providers and social service agencies; (e) managed care
21 organizations; (f) the Regional Health Hub's advisory committee,
22 established pursuant to the bill; and (g) health care consumers; and

23 4) demonstrate, to the commissioner's satisfaction, the ability
24 to perform the mandatory functions of a Regional Health Hub, as
25 described in subsection a. of section 6 of this act.

26 Each designated Regional Health Hub will be required to engage
27 in the following mandatory activities:

28 1) establish, operate, and maintain a health information
29 platform that allows for population-level views and analytics, and
30 for patient-level health interventions, which platform is
31 interoperable with all other Regional Health Hubs' platforms, and
32 with any other Statewide health information project designated by
33 the commissioner. (Hospitals and managed care organizations will
34 be required, and State departments will be authorized, to submit
35 health care data to the platforms that are maintained by the
36 Regional Health Hubs);

37 2) convene and obtain relevant input from community
38 stakeholders within the Regional Health Hub's core region. At a
39 minimum, convening activities are to include quarterly
40 opportunities for the active engagement and interaction of relevant
41 stakeholders, including, but not limited to, managed care
42 organizations, local and State government entities, health care and
43 social service providers, community-based organizations, and local
44 consumers of health care;

45 3) upon request, provide the DHS and other State agencies,
46 including the Departments of Health, Children and Families, and
47 Community Affairs, with information and feedback to assist the
48 departments in program design, population analysis, strategic

1 planning, and other appropriate functions; and

2 4) engage in any other activity that the Commissioner of
3 Human Services deems necessary to achieve the bill's goals.

4 Each designated Regional Health Hub will also be authorized to
5 engage in the certain discretionary activities as necessary either to
6 further the Regional Health Hub's goals or to comport with the
7 provisions of an annual memorandum of understanding (MOU)
8 voluntarily executed between, and espousing the joint goals,
9 projects, and priorities, of, the Regional Health Hub and the
10 department. Each MOU executed under the bill will be required to
11 include, at a minimum: 1) a description of the joint goals, projects,
12 and priorities agreed upon by the Regional Health Hub and the
13 department for the upcoming fiscal year; 2) an indication of the
14 amount of funding that will be needed to attain each joint goal,
15 project, and priority, and an indication of the total amount of
16 funding, overall, that will needed to execute the MOU; 3) a
17 description of the clear deliverables and performance metrics that
18 will be used to evaluate and measure success in relation to the
19 achievement of the goals, projects, and priorities described in the
20 MOU; and 4) a description of performance-based payments,
21 representing at least 10 percent but not more than 25 percent of the
22 total funding needed to execute the MOU, which payments will be
23 tied to the achievement of the clear deliverables described in the
24 MOU.

25 The bill would authorize a designated Regional Health Hub to
26 apply to the commissioner, at any time, for an expansion of its core
27 region. The commissioner will be required to approve the requested
28 expansion if: 1) the boundaries of the expanded core region will
29 not overlap with the core region of another Regional Health Hub; 2)
30 the area would otherwise qualify for designation as a prospective
31 service region; and 3) the applicant demonstrates the ability to
32 perform, in the requested expansion area, and within one year
33 following submission of the application, the mandatory activities of
34 a Regional Health Hub, as described in the bill.

35 The commissioner will be authorized to revoke an organization's
36 status as a Regional Health Hub if the organization fails to perform
37 the mandatory activities required by the bill. After revoking an
38 organization's status as a Regional Health Hub, the commissioner
39 will be required to immediately determine whether a new Regional
40 Health Hub is needed in the area and, if deemed appropriate,
41 designate a new Regional Health Hub to serve the area.

42 Any State department that implements a pilot program related to
43 health care delivery will be encouraged to consult with the Regional
44 Health Hubs operating in the regions of the State that will be
45 affected by the pilot program, in order to ensure that all relevant
46 considerations have been accounted for, and that the pilot program
47 is effectively and efficiently implemented with the assistance of all
48 relevant stakeholders.