Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Executive Order

AMENDED NUMBER FIFTY-TWO (2020)

EXTENSION OF INCREASES IN HOSPITAL BED CAPACITY IN RESPONSE TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Importance of the Issue

The Commonwealth of Virginia **continues to** anticipate a sudden, yet temporary need to increase bed capacity in general hospitals and nursing homes within the Commonwealth. The increase may be needed to serve persons who become acutely ill due to the outbreak of a respiratory illness referred to as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Based on information from the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of cases of COVID-19 continues to increase within the Commonwealth and in neighboring states. It **continues to be** anticipated that the number of persons who will need to be admitted to a hospital or nursing home for care within our communities may exceed the current capacity of our hospitals and nursing homes. Certain requirements in the Code of Virginia limit the ability of our hospitals and nursing homes to increase quickly their bed capacity in response to this expected higher demand.

Directive

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of Virginia, by §§ 2.2-103 and 44-146.17 of the *Code of Virginia*, and notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1.1 of Chapter 4 of Title 32.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, I **again** direct the State Health Commissioner, at his discretion, to authorize any general hospital or nursing home to increase licensed bed capacity as determined necessary by the Commissioner to respond to increased demand for beds resulting from COVID-19. Notwithstanding Virginia Code § 32.1-132, I **again** further direct any beds added by a general hospital or nursing home pursuant to an authorization of the Commissioner under this Order will constitute licensed beds that do not require further approval or the issuance of a new license.

These actions continue to be in concert with, and further the provisions of, Amended Executive Order 51 in marshalling all resources and appropriate preparedness, response, and recovery measures to respond to the emergency. Any authorization by the Commissioner to increase bed capacity, and the authority for any resulting increased number of beds, will expire 30 days after the expiration or rescission of Amended Executive Order 51, as it may be further amended.

Effective Date of this Executive Order

This Amended Executive Order **shall remain in full force and effect until Amended Executive Order 51 is rescinded.**

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 22nd day of June, 2020.

Ralph S. Northam, Governor

Attest:

Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth