

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 919	House Committee:	PASSED 3/5/25 (20-0)
Committee:	Health and Human Services	House Floor:	PASSED 3/25/25 (97-0)
Floor Manager:	Rep. Ann Meyer		PASSED 4/15/24 (94-0)
Date:	May 1, 2025	Senate Floor:	PASSED 4/9/25 (47-0)
Staff:	Natalie Ginty (5-2063)	Governor:	SIGNED 5/1/25

ChildServe Children's Specialty Hospital

- The bill establishes a children's specialty hospital designation for ChildServe.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 (Iowa Code 135B.1)

Defines "Children's specialty hospital" – nonprofit hospital, serves individuals 30 years and younger, more than 60% are on Medicaid, specializes in pediatric rehab and treating children with complex needs, no more than 200 inpatient beds, provides outpatient services and is licensed as a special population nursing facility prior to July 1, 2025.

Section 2 (Iowa Code 135B.40) – New Section

Allows DIAL to write rules to establish minimum standards for licensure of children's specialty hospitals. These rules will be in consultation with DHHS and industry.

Requires the children's specialty hospital to establish formal criteria for patient admission, discharge, and continuation of care.

Section 3 – DIAL – DHHS – Children's Specialty Hospitals

Defines "licensed entity".

Requires DIAL to grant a provisional children's specialty hospital license within 30 days of the effective date of this bill. The provisional license will be for no more than 24 months. Allows a licensed entity to seek federal certification and participation in federal reimbursement programs for hospitals.

Requires DIAL and DHHS to grant waivers to the children's specialty hospital to be in compliance with the requirements of federal certification or federal reimbursement programs. These waivers include a waiver from state rules to have a laboratory and pathology and to operate an emergency department. Waivers will only be for 24 months or till a permanent license is granted.

Allows the children's specialty hospital to operate under nursing facilities standards prior to the effective date of this act, and to be exempt from hospital construction standards.

Requires DHHS to set reimbursement rates for inpatient and outpatient care at the facility.

Exempts the children's specialty hospital from certificate of need for converting this license.

Section 4 – Emergency Rules

DIAL is allowed emergency rules to implement this bill.

Section 5 – Immediate effective date