



# State of New Hampshire

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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
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June 27, 2018

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

## REQUESTED ACTION

In Accordance with the provisions of RSA 21-I:80, I,(c), I respectfully recommend and request approval to allow the Department of Health and Human Services to proceed without using the Division of Public Works Design and Construction for an urgent project described as “Behavioral Health Grade Patient Unit Door Upgrades at New Hampshire Hospital” and projected to cost \$647,000 effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval.

## EXPLANATION

The Department of Health and Human Services is under a September deadline to upgrade doors at New Hampshire Hospital to preserve its accreditation and maintain approximately \$19 million in federal funding. The Department advises:

*“In the fall of 2017, New Hampshire Hospital identified 324 doors that would require replacing to meet the safety standards outlined by the Joint Commission. Specifically Standard EC.02.01.01 Element of performance 3-- requiring the hospital to take action to minimize or eliminate identified safety and security risks in the physical environment. In November 2017, Joint Commission Resources conducted a preliminary review of our Joint Commission readiness and identified several environmental concerns that presented as a risk for patient self-harm, these doors were on the list of concerns identified. In December 2017, New Hampshire Hospital identified potential funding in a capital project line. The hospital has been working on accessing that funding since December 2017. New Hampshire Hospital’s Joint Commission Survey is due in September 2018. These doors need to be replaced prior to September 2018. Failure to mitigate the ligature risks in our environment, prior to survey, will likely result in loss of accreditation which could lead to loss of all Medicaid and Medicare revenue, fines, suspension of admissions or closure of beds.”*

The use of capital funds for the project was approved as part of House Bill 580, signed into law on June 6, 2018. This project requires the involvement of the DAS Division of Public Works Design and Construction. However, a provision of RSA 21-I:78, I, (c) allows that "In an emergency, projects may be done on a force account basis upon the recommendation of the commissioner, with the approval of the governor and council."

Ordinarily, I would be very reluctant to make such a recommendation but in this case there are compelling circumstances that make this option the least bad of uncomfortable choices. Any contractor selected will even with a waiver have only about two months to complete a portion of a task that may well take much longer. The potential loss of up to \$19 million and the limited time argues for expediting the process.

Further, there is no intention to abandon all oversight. The project has been put out to competitive bid summarized below to help you understand the scope of the project I am recommending you authorize:

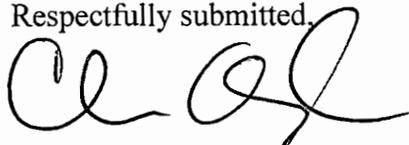
*Doors in the New Hampshire Hospital Acute Psychiatric Services building are subject to heavy use and at times extensive abuse. The hospital has identified doors that need to be modified or replaced to meet The Joint Commission compliance standards to minimize safety risks in the environment of care. Provide the following "turnkey" installation including labor and materials for the following:*

1. 79 doors modified to receive Anti-Ligature Mortise Lock
2. 127 doors modified to receive Anti-Ligature Mortise Lock and Heavy Duty Geared Type Continuous Hinge with Anti-Ligature Tip
3. 95 doors to provide modified frame to receive Thermal Fused Door; and Anti-Ligature Mortise Lock; Heavy Duty Geared Type Continuous Hinge with Anti-Ligature Tip; Pemko Emergency Release Double Acting Hinge/Stop; and Track Closer (where needed)
4. 23 Sentinel Event Reduction Door with roller latch

Any contract would also have to be approved by Governor and Council and would come before you almost immediately. Finally, the Division of Public Works, though not overseeing the project will offer any technical advice and assistance that might mitigate problems.

Though I am aware of the unusual nature of the suggestion, I respectfully recommend the Governor and Council approve of the Department of Health and Human Services going forward with the project outlined above on an emergency basis under RSA 21-I:80.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles M. Arlinghaus  
Commissioner