

1/25/2013



## **Private Companies to Run BK Hospital**

Tucked into the governor's executive budget is legislation enabling two business corporations affiliated with an academic medical center—one in Brooklyn and one upstate—to operate a hospital or hospitals in Brooklyn. The pilot program managed by the state Department of Health is meant to entice entities that otherwise would have nothing to do with the New York market and its restrictive health care regulations. The pilot would "assist in restructuring health care delivery systems by allowing for increased capital investment in health care facilities," according to the state budget. These business corporations—either for-profit or nonprofit—could use their capital and expertise to change the way health care is delivered in Brooklyn, creating a network instead of a delivery system heavily dependent on hospitals. Could an entity such as the Cleveland Clinic run SUNY Downstate and find the capital to keep Long Island College Hospital afloat? As conceived, the pilot program could explore a range of options. The budget language is meant to open the door to new approaches.