

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1465

5 By: Representative Hammer  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS STROKE CENTER  
9 DESIGNATION ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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11

## Subtitle

12 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS STROKE CENTER  
13 DESIGNATION ACT.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 9, is amended to add an  
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:

21 Subchapter 15 – Arkansas Stroke Center Designation Act  
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23 20-9-1501. Title.

24 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Stroke Center  
25 Designation Act".  
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27 20-9-1502. Legislative findings.

28 The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) Due to high stroke mortality rates in Arkansas, a  
30 coordinated system of care for stroke is needed throughout the State of  
31 Arkansas with the goal of identifying and treating stroke victims in a timely  
32 manner, improving outcomes for stroke patients, reducing the number of deaths  
33 due to stroke, and improving the quality of life for stroke survivors; and

34 (2) A public health need exists for acute care hospitals in the  
35 State of Arkansas to be designated as comprehensive stroke centers, primary  
36 stroke centers, and acute stroke-ready centers to ensure the rapid triage,



1 diagnostic evaluation, and treatment of patients suffering a stroke.

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3 20-9-1503. Definitions.

4 As used in this subchapter, "hospital" means a healthcare facility  
5 licensed as a hospital by the Division of Health Facilities Services of the  
6 Department of Health under § 20-9-213.

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8 20-9-1504. Comprehensive stroke center.

9 (a)(1) Upon application by a hospital, the Department of Health shall  
10 designate the hospital as a comprehensive stroke center if the hospital is  
11 certified as a comprehensive stroke center by the American Heart Association,  
12 the American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission, or any other  
13 nationally recognized certifying body designated by the department by rule.

14 (2) Additional criteria are not be required for establishing or  
15 maintaining designation.

16 (b) The designation shall last as long as the hospital remains  
17 certified.

18 (c) The department may remove a hospital's designation as a  
19 comprehensive stroke center if:

20 (1) The hospital requests removal of the designation; or

21 (2) The department determines that the certificate recognizing  
22 the hospital as a comprehensive stroke center has been suspended or revoked.

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24 20-9-1505. Primary stroke center.

25 (a)(1) Upon application by a hospital, the Department of Health shall  
26 designate the hospital as a primary stroke center if the hospital is  
27 certified as a primary stroke center by the American Heart Association, the  
28 American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission, or any other nationally  
29 recognized certifying body designated by the department by rule.

30 (2) Additional criteria are not be required for establishing or  
31 maintaining designation.

32 (b) The designation shall last as long as the hospital remains  
33 certified.

34 (c) The department may remove a hospital's designation as a primary  
35 stroke center if:

36 (1) The hospital requests removal of the designation; or

1           (2) The department determines that the certificate recognizing  
2 the hospital as a primary stroke center has been suspended or revoked.

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4           20-9-1506. Acute stroke-ready hospital.

5           (a)(1) Upon application by a hospital, the Department of Health shall  
6 designate the hospital as an acute stroke-ready hospital if the hospital is  
7 certified as an acute stroke-ready hospital by the American Heart Association  
8 the American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission, or any other  
9 nationally recognized certifying body designated by the department by rule.

10           (2) Additional criteria are not be required for establishing or  
11 maintaining designation.

12           (b) The designation shall last as long as the hospital remains  
13 certified.

14           (c) The department may remove a hospital's designation as an acute  
15 stroke-ready hospital if:

16                   (1) The hospital requests removal of the designation; or

17                   (2) The department determines that the certificate recognizing  
18 the hospital as an acute stroke-ready hospital has been suspended or revoked.

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20           20-9-1507. List of stroke centers.

21           On or before July 1 of each year, the Department of Health shall:

22                   (1) Prepare a list of designated acute stroke-ready hospitals,  
23 primary stroke centers, and comprehensive stroke centers in the state; and

24                   (2) Post the list of designated acute stroke-ready hospitals,  
25 primary stroke centers, and comprehensive stroke centers on the website of  
26 the Department of Health.

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28           20-9-1508. Guidelines.

29           (a)(1) The Department of Health, in coordination with independent  
30 licensed emergency medical services providers, shall establish and implement  
31 prehospital care guidelines that include without limitation assessment,  
32 treatment, and transport of stroke patients by licensed emergency medical  
33 services providers.

34                   (2) The guidelines shall include plans for triage and transport  
35 of acute stroke patients to the closest comprehensive stroke center or  
36 primary stroke center or, when appropriate, to an acute stroke-ready

1 hospital, within a specified time frame from the onset of symptoms.

2 (b) The State Board of Health shall promulgate rules to ensure that  
3 licensed emergency medical services providers receive regular training on the  
4 assessment and treatment of stroke patients if funding is available.

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6 20-9-1509. Patient treatment.

7 (a) This subchapter shall be interpreted to recognize that all  
8 patients should be treated individually based on each patient's needs and  
9 circumstances.

10 (b) This subchapter does not:

11 (1) Establish a standard of care or a medical practice  
12 guideline; or

13 (2) Restrict the authority of a hospital to provide services for  
14 which it has been licensed.

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