

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to health care patient protection;
3 amending s. 395.1012, F.S.; requiring hospital
4 emergency departments to develop and implement
5 policies and procedures, conduct training, record
6 weights in a certain manner, designate a pediatric
7 emergency care coordinator, and conduct specified
8 assessments; requiring each hospital emergency
9 department to submit a specified report to the Agency
10 for Health Care Administration by specified dates;
11 amending s. 395.1055, F.S.; requiring the agency to
12 adopt certain rules for comprehensive emergency
13 management plans, and, in consultation with the
14 Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children State
15 Partnership Program, establish minimum standards for
16 pediatric patient care in hospital emergency
17 departments; amending s. 408.05, F.S.; requiring the
18 agency to collect and publish the results of specified
19 assessments submitted by hospitals by specified dates;
20 providing an effective date.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23
24 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 395.1012,
25 Florida Statutes, to read:

26 395.1012 Patient safety.—
 27 (5) (a) Each hospital with an emergency department must:
 28 1. Develop and implement policies and procedures for
 29 pediatric patient care in the emergency department which reflect
 30 evidence-based best practices relating to, at a minimum:
 31 a. Triage.
 32 b. Measuring and recording vital signs.
 33 c. Weighing and recording weights in kilograms.
 34 d. Calculating medication dosages.
 35 e. Use of pediatric instruments.
 36 2. Conduct training at least annually on the policies and
 37 procedures developed under this subsection. The training must
 38 include, at a minimum:
 39 a. The use of pediatric instruments, as applicable to each
 40 licensure type, using clinical simulation as defined in s.
 41 464.003.
 42 b. Drills that simulate emergency situations. Each
 43 emergency department must conduct drills at least annually.
 44 (b) Each hospital emergency department must:
 45 1. Designate a pediatric emergency care coordinator. The
 46 pediatric emergency care coordinator must be a physician
 47 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, or a nurse licensed
 48 under chapter 464. The pediatric emergency care coordinator is
 49 responsible for implementation of and ensuring fidelity to the
 50 policies and procedures adopted under this subsection.

51 2. Conduct the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment
 52 developed by the National Pediatric Readiness Project, in
 53 accordance with timelines established by the National Pediatric
 54 Readiness Project. Each hospital emergency department shall
 55 submit the results of the assessment to the agency by December
 56 31, 2026, and each December 31 during a year in which the
 57 National Pediatric Readiness Assessment is conducted thereafter.

58 Section 2. Subsections (4) through (19) of section
 59 395.1055, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)
 60 through (20), respectively, paragraph (c) of subsection (1) is
 61 amended, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section to
 62 read:

63 395.1055 Rules and enforcement.—

64 (1) The agency shall adopt rules pursuant to ss.
 65 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this part,
 66 which shall include reasonable and fair minimum standards for
 67 ensuring that:

68 (c) A comprehensive emergency management plan is prepared
 69 and updated annually. Such standards must be included in the
 70 rules adopted by the agency after consulting with the Division
 71 of Emergency Management. At a minimum, the rules must provide
 72 for plan components that address emergency evacuation
 73 transportation; adequate sheltering arrangements; postdisaster
 74 activities, including emergency power, food, and water;
 75 postdisaster transportation; supplies; staffing; emergency

76 equipment; individual identification of residents and transfer
 77 of records, ~~and~~ responding to family inquiries, and the needs of
 78 pediatric and neonatal patients. The comprehensive emergency
 79 management plan is subject to review and approval by the local
 80 emergency management agency. During its review, the local
 81 emergency management agency shall ensure that the following
 82 agencies, at a minimum, are given the opportunity to review the
 83 plan: the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Department of
 84 Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the
 85 Division of Emergency Management. Also, appropriate volunteer
 86 organizations must be given the opportunity to review the plan.
 87 The local emergency management agency shall complete its review
 88 within 60 days and either approve the plan or advise the
 89 facility of necessary revisions.

90 (4) The agency, in consultation with the Florida Emergency
 91 Medical Services for Children State Partnership Program, shall
 92 adopt rules that establish minimum standards for pediatric
 93 patient care in hospital emergency departments, including, but
 94 not limited to, availability and immediate access to pediatric
 95 specific equipment and supplies.

96 Section 3. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (3) of
 97 section 408.05, Florida Statutes, to read:

98 408.05 Florida Center for Health Information and
 99 Transparency.—

100 (3) HEALTH INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY.—In order to

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101 disseminate and facilitate the availability of comparable and
102 uniform health information, the agency shall perform the
103 following functions:

104 (n)1. Collect the results of National Pediatric Readiness
105 Assessments submitted by hospitals pursuant to s. 395.1012(5).

106 2. By April 1, 2027, and each April 1 following a year in
107 which the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment is conducted
108 thereafter, publish the overall assessment score for each
109 hospital emergency department, and provide a comparison to the
110 national average score when it becomes available.

111 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.