

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT AND SENATOR WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize and direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to require through administrative rulemaking that licensed ambulance services establish protocols related to the assessment and transport of patients with cardiac and stroke emergencies and for rules to add Level IV trauma centers to the state trauma system.

WHEREAS, "STEMI", an abbreviation for "ST segment elevation myocardial infarction", is a type of heart attack characterized by full thickness cardiac muscle damage resulting from an acute interruption of blood supply to a part of the heart, and is the deadliest form of heart attack; and

WHEREAS, this type of heart attack continues to rank among the leading causes of death in Louisiana along with stroke, which itself is also a leading cause of long-term disability in this state; and

WHEREAS, rapid identification, diagnosis, and treatment of stroke and STEMI can save lives, and in some cases can reverse neurological damage that causes paralysis and speech impairment; and

WHEREAS, although new treatments are available that can improve the clinical outcomes of stroke and STEMI, acute care hospitals often face challenges in deploying the staff and equipment required to optimally triage and treat stroke and STEMI patients; and

WHEREAS, research shows that patients treated in facilities recognized as stroke and STEMI centers have higher survival rates than patients treated at hospitals which may be in closer proximity to the patient, but that are not stroke or STEMI centers; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Emergency Response Network has led a collaborative effort to recognize facilities that are most appropriate for stroke and STEMI care; and

WHEREAS, establishment of pre-hospital destination protocols by licensed ambulance services can help to ensure that stroke and STEMI patients are transported to the most appropriate facilities whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the public's health and well-being that Level IV trauma centers be added to Louisiana's state trauma system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the Department of Health and Hospitals, referred to hereafter as "the department", to promulgate such administrative rules as are necessary to require ambulance services licensed pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 40:1231 et seq., to establish pre-hospital destination protocols related to the assessment and transport of stroke and STEMI patients.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules of the department shall require, without limitation, establishment of all of the following:

(1) Plans for the transport of acute stroke patients to the closest comprehensive stroke center, primary stroke center, or acute stroke ready hospital, as defined in LAC 48:I.18701 et seq., within a specified time frame of onset of symptoms.

(2) Plans for the transport of STEMI heart attack patients to the closest STEMI receiving center or, when appropriate, to a STEMI referring center, as defined in LAC 48:I.18901 et seq., within a specified time frame of onset of symptoms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules of the department shall provide that:

(1) An ambulance service may either establish its own pre-hospital protocols which conform to the minimum requirements set forth by the department in rule, or adopt the pre-hospital protocols developed and promulgated by the Louisiana Emergency Response Network.

(2) If a life-threatening condition arises during the transport of a stroke or STEMI heart attack patient, the ambulance service shall transport the patient to the nearest appropriate hospital.

(3) Each licensed ambulance service shall submit to the department annually a copy of its stroke and STEMI transportation protocol.

(4) Any ambulance service that revises its stroke and STEMI transportation protocol shall submit the revised protocol to the department no more than thirty days after implementation of the protocol.

(5) Nothing in the rules of the department shall be construed to limit the right of a patient to refuse emergency transport to a recommended destination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall keep on file each transportation protocol it receives pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with this Resolution, and shall make such protocols available to any person upon request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department in consultation with the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN), the Louisiana Hospital Association, and the Louisiana State Medical Society shall promulgate rules and regulations for certification of trauma centers based upon national guidelines, including but not limited to those established by the American College of Surgeons in Hospital and Pre-Hospital Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient and any published appendices thereto, and may include, but are not limited to, the following standards:

(1) Specify the number and types of trauma patients for whom such centers must provide care in order to ensure that such centers will have sufficient experience and expertise to be able to provide quality care for victims of injury.

(2) Specify the resources and equipment needed by such centers.

(3) Include standards and guidelines for triage and transportation of trauma patients prior to care in designated trauma centers.

(4) Specify procedures for the certification and evaluation of designated trauma centers.

(5) Include procedures for the receipt, recording of, and disposition of complaints.

(6) Provide for the right of appeal for those health care facilities for which certification has been refused.

(7) Provide for the verification and certification of trauma center status which assign level designations based on resources available within the applicable facility.

(8) Provide that LERN may fund the provision of data to the state trauma registry in accordance with the registry's adopted rules, requirements, and reporting cycle.

(9) Provide that certified trauma centers participate in LERN regional commissions and LERN regional and state-level trauma system performance improvement and injury prevention activities per American College of Surgeons guidelines once adequate funding has been secured by the certified trauma center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regulations be consistent with the guidelines for verification of trauma centers specified by the American College of Surgeons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regulations require health care facilities applying for certification as a Level I, II, or III trauma center to obtain a verification site visit through the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons and that they require health care facilities applying for certification as a Level IV trauma center to obtain a verification site visit through the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons or an attestation site visit through the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall designate and certify a health care facility as a Level I, II, or III trauma center when the legal requirements have been fulfilled and upon verification from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) that the facility has met ACS trauma center criteria for Level I, II, or III.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall designate and certify a health care facility as a Level IV trauma center when the legal requirements have been fulfilled, and upon receipt of one of the following:

(1) A verification from the ACS that the facility has met ACS trauma center criteria for Level IV.

(2) A certification from LERN that the facility has met LERN trauma center criteria for Level IV and that LERN's Level IV trauma center criteria shall be the same or substantially similar to the ACS's Level IV trauma center criteria.

(3) The "trauma center" label shall be reserved exclusively for hospitals with state-issued trauma center certification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall issue standard forms for applications and for inspection reports, after consultation with LERN and other appropriate organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall promulgate the administrative rules required by this Resolution prior to October 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE