

SENATE BILL 1507

By Briggs

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1 and Title 68, Chapter 11, relative to hospitals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department shall recognize hospitals that meet the criteria of a ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) receiving center or STEMI referring center. Such recognition is limited to inclusion on a list, maintained by the department, of STEMI receiving centers and STEMI referring centers. The list shall be published on the department's division of emergency medical services' website.

(b) The department may recognize accreditation from a department-approved nationally recognized accrediting organization, as sufficient to recognize a hospital as a STEMI receiving center or a STEMI referring center.

(c) To be recognized as a STEMI receiving center or a STEMI referring center by the department, a hospital must submit written notification to the department's division of emergency medical services and submit proof that the hospital meets the applicable criteria set forth by a department-approved nationally recognized accrediting organization.

(d) If a hospital loses its accreditation, it shall notify the department. The department shall then remove the hospital from the department's list.

(e) Each ambulance service shall develop and implement pre-hospital care protocol plans related to the assessment, treatment, and transport of STEMI heart attack

patients by licensed emergency medical services personnel. The protocol shall include plans for the triage and transport of STEMI heart attack patients to the closest STEMI receiving center, or, when appropriate, to a STEMI referring center, within a specified timeframe of onset of symptoms. The emergency medical services board shall have the authority to promulgate rules to implement and enforce this section.

(f) STEMI receiving centers are encouraged to coordinate, through agreement, with STEMI referring centers throughout the state to provide appropriate access to care for acute heart attack patients.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.