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576-04104-19

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to stroke centers; amending s.  
395.3038, F.S.; revising the criteria for hospitals to  
be included on the state list of stroke centers by the  
Agency for Health Care Administration; removing  
provisions requiring the agency to adopt rules  
establishing the criteria for such list; amending s.  
395.30381, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the  
statewide stroke registry to conform to changes made  
by the act; amending s. 395.3039, F.S.; revising  
provisions prohibiting the advertisement of a hospital  
as a state-listed stroke center, unless certain  
conditions are met, to conform to changes made by the  
act; amending s. 395.3041, F.S.; requiring the medical  
director of each licensed emergency medical services  
provider to develop and implement protocols for the  
assessment, treatment, transport, and rerouting of  
suspected stroke patients to certain stroke centers;  
requiring that such protocols include specified plans  
for the triage and transport of suspected stroke  
patients; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection (2),  
and subsection (3) of section 395.3038, Florida Statutes, are  
amended to read:



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28           395.3038 State-listed stroke centers; notification of  
29 hospitals.—

30           (1) The agency shall make available on its website and to  
31 the department a list of the name and address of each hospital  
32 that is certified by a nationally recognized certifying  
33 organization as ~~meets the criteria for~~ an acute stroke ready  
34 center, a primary stroke center, a thrombectomy-capable stroke  
35 center, or a comprehensive stroke center. The list of stroke  
36 centers must include only those hospitals that have submitted  
37 documentation to the agency verifying their certification as an  
38 acute stroke ready center, a primary stroke center, a  
39 thrombectomy-capable stroke center, or a comprehensive stroke  
40 center, which may include, but is not limited to, any stroke  
41 center that offers and performs mechanical endovascular therapy  
42 consistent with the standards identified by a nationally  
43 recognized guidelines-based organization approved by the agency.  
44 Each hospital that has attested in an affidavit to the agency  
45 that it meets the criteria in this subsection must be certified  
46 ~~that attest in an affidavit submitted to the agency that the~~  
47 ~~hospital meets the named criteria, or those hospitals that~~  
48 ~~attest in an affidavit submitted to the agency that the hospital~~  
49 ~~is certified as an acute stroke ready center, a primary stroke~~  
50 ~~center, or a comprehensive stroke center by a nationally~~  
51 ~~recognized accrediting organization by July 1, 2021.~~

52           (2) (a) If a hospital no longer chooses to be certified by a  
53 nationally recognized certifying organization or has not  
54 attained certification consistent with ~~meet~~ the criteria in  
55 subsection (1) as ~~for~~ an acute stroke ready center, a primary  
56 stroke center, a thrombectomy-capable stroke center, or a



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57 comprehensive stroke center, the hospital shall notify the  
58 agency and the agency shall immediately remove the hospital from  
59 the list of stroke centers.

60 ~~(3) The agency shall adopt by rule criteria for an acute~~  
61 ~~stroke ready center, a primary stroke center, and a~~  
62 ~~comprehensive stroke center which are substantially similar to~~  
63 ~~the certification standards for the same categories of stroke~~  
64 ~~centers of a nationally recognized accrediting organization.~~

65 Section 2. Section 395.30381, Florida Statutes, is amended  
66 to read:

67 395.30381 Statewide stroke registry.-

68 (1) Subject to a specific appropriation, the department  
69 shall contract with a private entity to establish and maintain a  
70 statewide stroke registry to ensure that the stroke performance  
71 measures required to be submitted under subsection (2) are  
72 maintained and available for use to improve or modify the stroke  
73 care system, ensure compliance with standards and nationally  
74 recognized guidelines, and monitor stroke patient outcomes.

75 (2) Each acute stroke ready center, primary stroke center,  
76 thrombectomy-capable stroke center, and comprehensive stroke  
77 center shall regularly report to the statewide stroke registry  
78 information containing ~~specified by the department~~, including  
79 nationally recognized stroke performance measures.

80 (3) The department shall require the contracted private  
81 entity to use a nationally recognized platform to collect data  
82 from each stroke center on the stroke performance measures  
83 required in subsection (2). The contracted private entity shall  
84 provide regular reports to the department on the data collected.

85 (4) A ~~No~~ liability of any kind or character for damages or



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86 other relief shall not arise or be enforced against any acute  
87 stroke ready center, primary stroke center, thrombectomy-capable  
88 stroke center, or comprehensive stroke center by reason of  
89 having provided such information to the statewide stroke  
90 registry.

91 Section 3. Section 395.3039, Florida Statutes, is amended  
92 to read:

93 395.3039 Advertising restrictions.—A person may not  
94 advertise to the public, by way of any medium whatsoever, that a  
95 hospital is a state-listed ~~primary or comprehensive~~ stroke  
96 center unless the hospital has submitted documentation to the  
97 agency verifying that it is certified and meets the criteria  
98 ~~provided notice to the agency as required in s. 395.3038 by this~~  
99 ~~act.~~

100 Section 4. Subsections (1), (3), and (4) of section  
101 395.3041, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

102 395.3041 Emergency medical services providers; triage and  
103 transportation of stroke victims to a stroke center.—

104 (1) By June 1 of each year, the department shall send the  
105 list of acute stroke ready centers, primary stroke centers,  
106 thrombectomy-capable stroke centers, and comprehensive stroke  
107 centers to the medical director of each licensed emergency  
108 medical services provider in the ~~this~~ state.

109 (3) The medical director of each licensed emergency medical  
110 services provider shall develop and implement assessment,  
111 treatment, transport, and rerouting ~~transport-destination~~  
112 protocols for stroke patients with the intent to assess, treat,  
113 ~~and transport~~, and reroute stroke patients to acute stroke ready  
114 centers, primary stroke centers, thrombectomy-capable stroke



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115 centers, and comprehensive stroke centers. The protocols must  
116 include plans for the triage and transport of suspected stroke  
117 patients, including, but not limited to, patients who may have  
118 an emergent large vessel occlusion, to an appropriate facility  
119 within a specified timeframe after such patients exhibit the  
120 sudden onset of stroke-related symptoms. In developing the  
121 protocols, the medical director of each licensed emergency  
122 medical services provider must consider the capability of an  
123 emergency receiving facility to improve outcomes for patients  
124 who are suspected, based on clinical severity, of having an  
125 emergent large vessel occlusion ~~the most appropriate hospital.~~

126 (4) Each emergency medical services provider licensed under  
127 chapter 401 must comply with ~~all sections of this~~ section and  
128 ss. 395.3038-395.3039 ~~act.~~

129 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.