A bill to be entitled
An act relating to stroke centers; amending s. 395.3038, F.S.; directing the Agency for Health Care Administration to include hospitals that meet the criteria for acute stroke ready centers on a list of stroke centers; creating s. 395.30381, F.S.; requiring stroke centers to provide certain information to the Department of Health; requiring the department to establish a statewide stroke registry; providing immunity from liability under certain circumstances; requiring the department to develop electronic reporting forms and post such forms on its website; authorizing the department to adopt rules; amending s. 395.3041, F.S.; conforming a provision and deleting obsolete dates; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 395.3038, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

395.3038 State-listed primary stroke centers and comprehensive stroke centers; notification of hospitals.—

(1) The agency shall make available on its website and to the department a list of the name and address of each hospital that meets the criteria for an acute stroke ready center, a
primary stroke center, or and the name and address of each
hospital that meets the criteria for a comprehensive stroke
center. The list of primary and comprehensive stroke centers
must include only those hospitals that attest in an affidavit
submitted to the agency that the hospital meets the named
criteria, or those hospitals that attest in an affidavit
submitted to the agency that the hospital is certified as an
acute stroke ready center, a primary stroke center, or a
comprehensive stroke center by a nationally recognized
accrediting organization.

(2)(a) If a hospital no longer chooses to meet the
criteria for an acute stroke ready center, a primary stroke
center, or a comprehensive stroke center, the hospital shall
notify the agency and the agency shall immediately remove the
hospital from the list of stroke centers.

(b)1. This subsection does not apply if the hospital is
unable to provide stroke treatment services for a period of time
not to exceed 2 months. The hospital shall immediately notify
all local emergency medical services providers when the
temporary unavailability of stroke treatment services begins and
when the services resume.

2. If stroke treatment services are unavailable for more
than 2 months, the agency shall remove the hospital from the
list of primary or comprehensive
stroke centers until the
hospital notifies the agency that stroke treatment services have
been resumed.

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

(4) The agency shall adopt by rule criteria for a
comprehensive stroke center. However, if the Joint Commission
establishes criteria for a comprehensive stroke center, agency
rules shall be substantially similar.

This act is not a medical practice guideline and
may not be used to restrict the authority of a hospital to
provide services for which it is licensed under chapter 395. The
Legislature intends that all patients be treated individually
based on each patient's needs and circumstances.

Section 2. Section 395.30381, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

395.30381 Statewide stroke registry.—

(1) Each acute ready stroke center, primary stroke center,
and comprehensive stroke center shall report to the department
information specified in department rule, including, but not
limited to, demographic information, stroke severity
assessments, diagnostic and examination results, time from
symptom onset to hospital arrival, in-hospital treatments and
events, mortality, and discharge destination for each stroke patient treated by a stroke center.

(2) The department shall contract with a recognized medical organization in this state and its affiliated institutions to establish and maintain a statewide stroke registry. The medical organization shall maintain and make available the reports required under this section for use in the course of any study for the purpose of reducing morbidity or mortality or improving the stroke care system. Such reports shall be used to evaluate stroke care system effectiveness, monitor patient outcomes, and improve or modify the stroke care system.

(3) No liability of any kind or character for damages or other relief shall arise or be enforced against any acute ready stroke center, primary stroke center, or comprehensive stroke center by reason of having provided such information to the department.

(4) The department shall develop electronic forms for each acute ready stroke center, primary stroke center, and comprehensive stroke center to report required information to the registry. The department must post these forms on its website.

(5) The department may adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section
395.3041, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(1) By June 1 of each year, the department shall send the list of acute stroke ready centers, primary stroke centers, and comprehensive stroke centers to the medical director of each licensed emergency medical services provider in this state.

(2) The department shall develop a sample stroke-triage assessment tool. The department must post this sample assessment tool on its website and provide a copy of the assessment tool to each licensed emergency medical services provider no later than June 1, 2005. Each licensed emergency medical services provider must use a stroke-triage assessment tool that is substantially similar to the sample stroke-triage assessment tool provided by the department.

(4) Each emergency medical services provider licensed under chapter 401 must comply with all sections of this act by July 1, 2005.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.