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 DIGEST

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SB 216 Reengrossed

2017 Regular Session

Tarver

Present law authorizes any physician, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or psychologist to execute an emergency certificate after an actual examination of a person alleged to be mentally ill or suffering from substance abuse who is determined to be in need of immediate care and treatment in a treatment facility because the person is determined to be dangerous to self or others or to be gravely disabled.

Proposed law expands this authority to the following healthcare professionals:

- (1) Physician assistants when acting in accordance with their respective clinical practice guidelines.
- (2) Nurse practitioners with or without a clinical specialization who act in accordance with a collaborative practice agreement and receive verbal approval from a collaborating physician for executing the certificate.

Present law includes minimum data required on a certificate.

Proposed law expands minimum data to include the date of exam and objective findings of the physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

Present law provides for legal authority to transport a person to a treatment facility.

Proposed law expands legal authority to transport a person to a treatment facility to instances where it is authorized by a physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

Effective August 1, 2017.

(Amends R.S. 28:53(B)(1), (2)(a) and (b), and (F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Clarifies that the physician assistant acts in collaboration with their supervising physician in issuing an emergency certificate.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Provides that the physician assistant act in accordance with their respective clinical practice guidelines when executing an emergency certificate.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill:

1. Add nurse practitioners with or without a clinical specialization as healthcare professionals who may issue an emergency certificate for mental health or substance abuse treatment.
2. Stipulate that a nurse practitioner who may issue such a certificate must act in accordance with a collaborative practice agreement and receive verbal approval from his collaborating physician for executing the certificate.