2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 162

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

HEALTH/EMERG MED SERVICE: Authorizes the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to issue administrative rules concerning transportation of patients with cardiac and stroke emergencies

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To authorize and direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to require through
3	administrative rulemaking that licensed ambulance services establish protocols
4	related to the assessment and transport of patients with cardiac and stroke
5	emergencies.
6	WHEREAS, "STEMI", an abbreviation for "ST segment elevation myocardial
7	infarction", is a type of heart attack characterized by full thickness cardiac muscle damage
8	resulting from an acute interruption of blood supply to a part of the heart, and is the deadliest
9	form of heart attack; and
10	WHEREAS, this type of heart attack continues to rank among the leading causes of
11	death in Louisiana along with stroke, which itself is also a leading cause of long-term
12	disability in this state; and
13	WHEREAS, rapid identification, diagnosis, and treatment of stroke and STEMI can
14	save lives, and in some cases can reverse neurological damage that causes paralysis and
15	speech impairment; and
16	WHEREAS, although new treatments are available that can improve the clinical
17	outcomes of stroke and STEMI, acute care hospitals often face challenges in deploying the
18	staff and equipment required to optimally triage and treat stroke and STEMI patients; and

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1 WHEREAS, research shows that patients treated in facilities recognized as stroke and 2 STEMI centers have higher survival rates than patients treated at hospitals which may be in 3 closer proximity to the patient, but that are not stroke or STEMI centers; and 4 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Emergency Response Network has led a collaborative 5 effort to recognize facilities that are most appropriate for stroke and STEMI care; and 6 WHEREAS, establishment of pre-hospital destination protocols by licensed 7 ambulance services can help to ensure that stroke and STEMI patients are transported to the 8 most appropriate facilities whenever possible. 9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 10 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the Department of Health and 11 Hospitals, referred to hereafter as "the department", to promulgate such administrative rules 12 as are necessary to require ambulance services licensed pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 13 40:1231 et seq., to establish pre-hospital destination protocols related to the assessment and 14 transport of stroke and STEMI patients. 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules of the department shall require, without 16 limitation, establishment of all of the following: 17 (1) Plans for the transport of acute stroke patients to the closest comprehensive 18 stroke center, primary stroke center, or acute stroke ready hospital, as defined in LAC 19 48:I.18701 et seq., within a specified time frame of onset of symptoms. 20 (2) Plans for the transport of STEMI heart attack patients to the closest STEMI 21 receiving center or, when appropriate, to a STEMI referring center, as defined in LAC 22 48:I.18901 et seq., within a specified time frame of onset of symptoms. 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules of the department shall provide that: 24 (1) An ambulance service may either establish its own pre-hospital protocols which 25 conform to the minimum requirements set forth by the department in rule, or adopt the 26 pre-hospital protocols developed and promulgated by the Louisiana Emergency Response 27 Network. 28 (2) If a life-threatening condition arises during the transport of a stroke or STEMI 29 heart attack patient, the ambulance service shall transport the patient to the nearest 30 appropriate hospital.

1 (3) Each licensed ambulance service shall submit to the department annually a copy 2 of its stroke and STEMI transportation protocol. 3 (4) Any ambulance service that revises its stroke and STEMI transportation protocol 4 shall submit the revised protocol to the department no more than thirty days after 5 implementation of the protocol. 6 (5) Nothing in the rules of the department shall be construed to limit the right of a 7 patient to refuse emergency transport to a recommended destination. 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall keep on file each 9 transportation protocol it receives pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with this 10 Resolution, and shall make such protocols available to any person upon request. 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall promulgate the 12 administrative rules required by this Resolution prior to October 1, 2015. 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 14 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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