

By Representative Saunders

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to emergency medical services;  
3           amending ss. 365.171, 395.1027, F.S.; requiring  
4           a local governmental entity that operates a  
5           "911" emergency telephone system to enter into  
6           an agreement with the regional poison control  
7           center; requiring that the agreement outline a  
8           protocol under which the poison control center  
9           is consulted with respect to each emergency  
10          call that involves exposure to a potentially  
11          toxic substance; requiring the poison control  
12          center to assess the emergency and recommend an  
13          appropriate response; providing an effective  
14          date.

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

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18           Section 1. Subsections (4) and (6) of section 365.171,  
19 Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to read:

20           365.171 Emergency telephone number "911."--

21           (4) STATE PLAN.--The division shall develop a  
22 statewide emergency telephone number "911" system plan. The  
23 plan shall provide for:

24           (a) The establishment of the public agency emergency  
25 telephone communications requirements for each entity of local  
26 government in the state.

27           (b) A system to meet specific local government  
28 requirements. Such system must ~~shall~~ include law enforcement,  
29 firefighting, poison control, and emergency medical services  
30 and may include other emergency services such as ~~poison~~

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1 ~~control~~, suicide prevention, and emergency management  
2 services.

3 (c) Identification of the mutual aid agreements  
4 necessary to obtain an effective "911" system.

5 (d) A funding provision that must ~~which shall~~ identify  
6 the cost necessary to implement the "911" system.

7 (e) A firm implementation schedule that must ~~which~~  
8 ~~shall~~ include the installation of the "911" system in a local  
9 community within 24 months after the designated agency of the  
10 local government gives a firm order to the telephone utility  
11 for a "911" system.

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13 The division shall be responsible for the implementation and  
14 coordination of such plan. The division shall adopt any  
15 necessary rules and schedules related to public agencies for  
16 implementing and coordinating such plan, pursuant to chapter  
17 120. The public agency designated in the plan shall order  
18 such system within 6 months after publication date of the plan  
19 if the public agency is in receipt of funds appropriated by  
20 the Legislature for the implementation and maintenance of the  
21 "911" system. Any jurisdiction which has utilized local  
22 funding as of July 1, 1976, to begin the implementation of the  
23 state plan as set forth in this section shall be eligible for  
24 at least a partial reimbursement of its direct cost when, and  
25 if, state funds are available for such reimbursement.

26 (6) REGIONAL SYSTEMS.--

27 (a) Nothing in This section does not ~~shall be~~  
28 ~~construed to~~ prohibit or discourage the formation of  
29 multijurisdictional or regional systems; and any system  
30 established pursuant to this section may include the  
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1 jurisdiction, or any portion thereof, of more than one public  
2 agency.

3       **(b) Each local governmental entity that operates a**  
4 **"911" system shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the**  
5 **poison control center established under s. 395.1027 which**  
6 **covers the geographic area of the "911" system. The**  
7 **cooperative agreement must outline a protocol under which the**  
8 **poison control center is consulted via a telephone conference**  
9 **call for each call to the "911" system that involves exposure**  
10 **to a potentially toxic substance. The regional poison control**  
11 **center shall assess the individual case and recommend the**  
12 **appropriate level of care so that an emergency unit is not**  
13 **unnecessarily dispatched or made unavailable for a more**  
14 **life-threatening intervention.**

15       Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 395.1027, Florida  
16 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to that  
17 section, to read:

18       395.1027 Regional poison control centers.--

19       (2) Each regional poison control center shall provide  
20 the following services:

21       (a) Toll-free access by the public for poison  
22 information.

23       (b) Case management of poison cases.

24       (c) Professional consultation to health care  
25 practitioners and emergency "911" systems.

26       (d) Prevention education to the public.

27       (e) Data collection and reporting.

28       **(4) Each regional poison control center shall enter**  
29 **into a cooperative agreement with the local governmental**  
30 **entities that operate a "911" emergency telephone system**  
31 **within the center's geographic area. The cooperative agreement**

1 must outline a protocol under which the poison control center  
2 is consulted via a telephone conference call for each call to  
3 the "911" system that involves exposure to a potentially toxic  
4 substance. The regional poison control center shall assess the  
5 individual case and recommend the appropriate level of care so  
6 that an emergency unit is not unnecessarily dispatched or made  
7 unavailable for a more life-threatening intervention.

8 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

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11 SENATE SUMMARY

12 Requires local governments that operate a "911" emergency  
13 telephone system and each regional poison control center  
14 to enter into cooperative agreements under which any  
15 emergency call that involves exposure to a potentially  
16 toxic substance is assessed by the poison control center.  
17 Provides for the poison control center to recommend the  
18 appropriate level of care in order to avoid unnecessarily  
19 dispatching an emergency unit.  
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