

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Committee on Health Care recommends the following:

2
3 **Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to primary and comprehensive stroke
7 centers; providing legislative findings and intent;
8 providing definitions; requiring the Agency for Health Care
9 Administration to create and make available on its Internet
10 website and to the Department of Health a list of primary
11 and comprehensive stroke centers; providing criteria for
12 inclusion on such list; requiring a hospital that no longer
13 meets such criteria to notify the agency; requiring the
14 agency to remove such hospital from the list; providing an
15 exception; requiring the hospital to notify emergency
16 personnel if services become unavailable or resume;
17 requiring the agency to remove a hospital from the list
18 under certain conditions; requiring the agency to notify
19 all hospitals in the state of the list; requiring the
20 agency to develop criteria for primary and comprehensive
21 stroke centers; providing construction; prohibiting a
22 person from claiming that a facility is a state-listed
23 stroke center unless the facility has provided notice to

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24 | the agency; requiring the department to circulate a list of
25 | stroke centers to certain medical directors; requiring the
26 | department to develop a sample stroke triage or stroke
27 | alert assessment tool; requiring emergency personnel to
28 | utilize a similar tool; requiring the medical director of
29 | each emergency medical services provider to develop and
30 | implement certain protocols; requiring compliance by a
31 | certain date; providing an effective date.

32 |

33 | WHEREAS, stroke is the third leading killer in the United
34 | States and in Florida, and

35 | WHEREAS, stroke is also a leading cause of serious long-
36 | term disability in this state, and

37 | WHEREAS, 165,000 people die from stroke in the United
38 | States every year, including 10,000 people in this state, and

39 | WHEREAS, 60 percent of all deaths from strokes occur in
40 | women, and

41 | WHEREAS, approximately 4.5 million stroke survivors are
42 | alive today, and as many as 25 percent are permanently disabled,
43 | and

44 | WHEREAS, nearly 30 percent of all people who suffer a
45 | stroke are under age 65, and

46 | WHEREAS, it is estimated that strokes cost the United
47 | States nearly \$50 billion a year in total costs, with direct
48 | costs estimated at \$28 billion, and

49 | WHEREAS, as the population ages, death and disability from
50 | stroke will increase dramatically if this state does not

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51 | implement strategies that will improve the survival of victims
52 | of stroke in all communities across this state, and

53 | WHEREAS, emergency medical services may be transporting
54 | stroke victims to hospitals that do not have specialized
55 | programs for providing timely and effective treatment for stroke
56 | victims, NOW, THEREFORE,

57 |

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

59 |

60 | Section 1. Legislative findings and intent.--

61 | (1) The Legislature finds that rapid identification,
62 | diagnosis, and treatment of stroke can save the lives of stroke
63 | victims and in some cases can reverse impairments such as
64 | paralysis, leaving stroke victims with few or no neurological
65 | deficits.

66 | (2) The Legislature further finds that a strong system for
67 | stroke survival is needed in the state's communities in order to
68 | treat stroke victims in a timely manner and to improve the
69 | overall treatment of stroke victims. Therefore, the Legislature
70 | intends to promote the development of an emergency treatment
71 | system in this state that will allow stroke victims to be
72 | quickly identified and transported to and treated in facilities
73 | that have specialized programs for providing timely and
74 | effective treatment for stroke victims.

75 | Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act, the term:

76 | (1) "Agency" means the Agency for Health Care
77 | Administration.

78 | (2) "Department" means the Department of Health.

79 Section 3. State-listed primary stroke centers and
80 comprehensive stroke centers; notification of hospitals.--

81 (1) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall make
82 available on its Internet website and to the Department of
83 Health a list of the names and locations of hospitals that meet
84 the criteria for a primary stroke center and the names and
85 locations of hospitals that meet the criteria for a
86 comprehensive stroke center. The list of primary and
87 comprehensive stroke centers shall include only those hospitals
88 that attest by affidavit submitted to the agency that they meet
89 the named criteria or those hospitals that attest that they are
90 certified as primary or comprehensive stroke centers by the
91 Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

92 (2) If a hospital no longer plans to meet the criteria for
93 a primary or comprehensive stroke center, the hospital shall
94 notify the agency and the agency shall immediately remove the
95 hospital from the list. This subsection shall not apply to a
96 hospital that experiences a short-term unavailability of stroke
97 treatment services. The hospital shall immediately notify all
98 local emergency medical services providers of the temporary
99 unavailability of stroke treatment services. The hospital shall
100 notify all local emergency medical services providers when
101 services resume. If stroke treatment services are unavailable
102 for more than 2 months, the agency shall remove the hospital
103 from the list of primary or comprehensive stroke centers until
104 the hospital notifies the agency that stroke treatment services
105 have been restored.

106 (3) By February 15, 2005, the agency shall notify all
 107 hospitals in the state that the agency is compiling a list of
 108 primary stroke centers and comprehensive stroke centers in the
 109 state. Included in the notification shall be an explanation of
 110 the criteria for a primary stroke center and a comprehensive
 111 stroke center as well as an explanation of the process for being
 112 added to the list of primary and comprehensive stroke centers.

113 (4) The agency shall develop criteria for a primary stroke
 114 center that are substantially similar to the primary stroke
 115 center certification standards of the Joint Commission on
 116 Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

117 (5) The agency shall develop criteria for a comprehensive
 118 stroke center. In addition, if the Joint Commission on
 119 Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations establishes criteria
 120 for comprehensive stroke centers, the agency shall establish
 121 criteria for comprehensive stroke centers that are substantially
 122 similar to those criteria established by the Joint Commission on
 123 Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

124 (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed as a
 125 medical practice guideline or to restrict the authority of a
 126 hospital to provide service for which it has received a license
 127 pursuant to chapter 395, Florida Statutes. The Legislature
 128 recognizes that all patients need to be treated individually
 129 based on each patient's needs and circumstances.

130 Section 4. Advertising restrictions.--A person may not
 131 advertise to the public, by way of any medium whatsoever, that a
 132 hospital is a state-listed stroke center unless the hospital has
 133 provided notice to the agency as required by this act.

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134 Section 5. Emergency medical service providers; triage and
135 transportation of stroke victims to stroke centers.--

136 (1) By June 1 of every year, the Department of Health
137 shall send the list of primary stroke centers and comprehensive
138 stroke centers to the medical director of all licensed emergency
139 medical services providers in the state.

140 (2) The Department of Health must develop a sample stroke
141 triage or stroke alert assessment tool. The department must post
142 this sample assessment tool on its Internet website and provide
143 a copy to all licensed emergency medical services providers no
144 later than June 1, 2005. All licensed emergency medical services
145 providers must utilize a stroke triage or stroke alert
146 assessment tool that is similar to the sample stroke triage or
147 stroke alert assessment tool provided by the department.

148 (3) The medical director of each licensed emergency
149 medical services provider shall develop and implement
150 assessment, treatment, and transport destination protocols for
151 stroke patients with the intent to assess, treat, and transport
152 stroke patients to the most appropriate hospitals.

153 (4) All emergency medical services providers licensed
154 under chapter 401, Florida Statutes, must comply with all parts
155 of this section by July 1, 2005.

156 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.