By Senator Siplin

19-1596-06

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to hospitals; creating s.
3	395.1033, F.S.; requiring the Agency for Health
4	Care Administration to adopt a model protocol
5	of uniform policies and procedures for
6	hospitals to follow in the event of a natural
7	disaster or state of emergency; requiring that
8	specified procedures be included in the model
9	protocol; requiring that hospitals provide
10	shelter space for children of hospital
11	employees who are on duty during an emergency;
12	requiring each hospital in the state to adopt
13	uniform policies and procedures to be followed
14	during an emergency based on the model protocol
15	developed by the agency; requiring that the
16	agency prescribe by rule a schedule for
17	hospitals to submit the uniform policies and
18	procedures for review and approval; providing
19	an effective date.
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21	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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23	Section 1. Section 395.1033, Florida Statutes, is
24	created to read:
25	395.1033 Hospital protocol during a natural disaster
26	or state of emergency
27	(1) The Agency for Health Care Administration shall
28	adopt by rule a model protocol of uniform policies and
29	procedures to be followed by hospitals licensed under this
30	chapter in the event of a natural disaster or state of
31	emergency declared under chapter 252. If an evacuation of the

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facility may be required, the model protocol shall require
that the hospital update any existing agreements between the
hospital and ambulance services that provide transportation
services within the geographical boundaries served by the
hospital in order to ensure the prompt and orderly evacuation
of patients.

- (a) The model protocol must include procedures for training hospital personnel who will be called upon to carry out key roles during a declared state of emergency or an evacuation of hospital patients. Any reassignment of personnel must be based on the employee's professional training, experience, and abilities. The protocol must provide direction to hospital administrators in reassigning personnel to perform essential duties and functions.
- (b) The model protocol shall require that the hospital provide shelter space for the children of hospital employees who are required to be on duty at the hospital during a natural disaster or declared state of emergency. The shelter plan must ensure that adequate staff are provided for the shelter and that there is a reliable communications system.
- (c) During the postdisaster response and recovery period if supplies are available, the model protocol shall require that the hospital give special consideration to supplying employees with ice, food, and gasoline in order to assist employees in performing their duties.
- (2) Based on the model protocol adopted by the agency, each hospital shall adopt uniform policies and procedures to be implemented by the hospital in the event of a natural disaster or state of emergency. The policies and procedures must provide for the proper staffing of the hospital before and during a declared state of emergency and for the

1	evacuation of the hospital if necessary. The hospital shall
2	update its existing agreements with ambulance services within
3	the geographical boundaries served by the hospital in order to
4	reflect the procedures to be followed if it is necessary to
5	evacuate the hospital.
6	(3) The agency shall prescribe by rule a schedule for
7	each hospital to submit its adopted policies and procedures to
8	the agency for review and approval.
9	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.
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12	SENATE SUMMARY
13	Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to
14	adopt a model protocol of uniform policies and procedures for hospitals to follow in the event of a natural disaster or declared state of emergency. Requires that
15	the model protocol require agreements with ambulance services for the evacuation of patients, provide staffing
16	and training requirements, and require that shelter space
17	be provided for children of hospital employees. Requires each hospital to adopt policies and procedures based on
18	the agency's model protocol and submit the policies and procedures to the agency for approval.
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