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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to cardiology services; providing
3 legislative findings and intent; providing definitions;
4 requiring the Department of Health to create a list of
5 percutaneous intervention centers and distribute the list
6 to emergency medical services providers in the state;
7 directing the department to develop and distribute a
8 sample cardiac triage assessment tool; requiring emergency
9 medical services providers to use a similar assessment
10 tool; requiring licensed emergency medical services
11 providers to develop and use certain specified protocols;
12 providing duties of the department; requiring a report;
13 providing for meetings; requiring compliance by a certain
14 date; providing an effective date.

15
16 WHEREAS, every year, approximately 24,000 people in this
17 state suffer a life-threatening heart attack, one-third of whom
18 die within 24 hours after the attack, and

19 WHEREAS, fewer than 20 percent of heart attack victims
20 receive emergency angioplasty to open blocked arteries, and

21 WHEREAS, studies have shown that individuals suffering a
22 life-threatening heart attack have better outcomes if they
23 receive emergency angioplasty, and

24 WHEREAS, studies have shown that opening a blocked coronary
25 artery with emergency angioplasty within recommended timeframes
26 can effectively prevent or significantly minimize permanent
27 damage to the heart, and

28 WHEREAS, even fewer patients receive the procedure within

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29 | the timeframe recommended by the American Heart Association, and
 30 | WHEREAS, damage to the heart muscle can result in death,
 31 | congestive heart failure, atrial fibrillation, and other chronic
 32 | diseases of the heart, and

33 | WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Heart
 34 | Association, the American College of Cardiology, and the Florida
 35 | College of Emergency Physicians recommend deploying protocols
 36 | and systems to help ensure that people suffering from a life-
 37 | threatening heart attack receive the latest evidence-based care,
 38 | such as emergency angioplasty, within recommended timeframes,
 39 | and

40 | WHEREAS, Florida's trauma services system and emergency
 41 | stroke treatment system have dramatically improved the care
 42 | provided for individuals suffering from a traumatic injury or a
 43 | stroke, and

44 | WHEREAS, a statewide emergency cardiac system can help
 45 | ensure that people suffering from a life-threatening heart
 46 | attack will receive the latest evidence-based care within
 47 | recommended timeframes, NOW, THEREFORE,

48 |

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

50 |

51 | Section 1. Emergency medical services providers; triage
 52 | and transportation of ST elevation myocardial infarction victims
 53 | to a percutaneous intervention center; definitions.--

54 | (1) (a) The Legislature finds that rapid identification and
 55 | treatment of serious heart attacks known as ST elevation
 56 | myocardial infarction according to the latest evidence-based

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57 standards can significantly improve outcomes by reducing death
58 and disability by rapidly restoring blood flow to the heart.

59 (b) The Legislature further finds that a strong emergency
60 system to support survival from life-threatening heart attacks
61 is needed in our communities in order to treat victims in a
62 timely manner and to improve the overall care of heart attack
63 victims.

64 (c) Therefore, the Legislature intends to establish a
65 statewide emergency cardiac system to help improve outcomes for
66 individuals suffering from a life-threatening heart attack.

67 (2) As used in this section, the term:

68 (a) "Agency" means the Agency for Health Care
69 Administration.

70 (b) "Department" means the Department of Health.

71 (3) By June 1 of each year, the department shall send a
72 list of the names and addresses of every percutaneous
73 intervention center in the state to the medical director of each
74 licensed emergency medical services provider in the state.

75 (4) The department shall develop a sample cardiac triage
76 assessment tool. The department must post this sample assessment
77 tool on its website and provide a copy of the assessment tool to
78 each licensed emergency medical services provider no later than
79 March 1, 2008. Each licensed medical services provider must use
80 a cardiac triage assessment tool substantially similar to the
81 sample cardiac triage assessment tool provided by the
82 department.

83 (5) The medical director of each licensed emergency
84 medical services provider shall develop and implement

85 assessment, treatment, and transportation protocols for cardiac
86 patients and employ those protocols to assess, treat, and
87 transport cardiac patients to the most appropriate hospital.

88 (6) The department shall develop and provide technical
89 support, equipment recommendations, and necessary training for
90 effective identification of acute ST elevation myocardial
91 infarction patients to the medical directors of each licensed
92 emergency medical services provider. The department shall model
93 the sample cardiac triage assessment tool on the American Heart
94 Association's advanced cardiovascular life support chest pain
95 algorithm for prehospital assessment, triage, and treatment of
96 patients with suspected ST elevation myocardial infarction. The
97 department shall conduct an annual survey of all licensed
98 emergency medical services providers to determine the quality of
99 their equipment, their training requirements, and their
100 performance regarding the practical application of protocols and
101 the identification of acute ST elevation myocardial infarction
102 in the field. The department shall report its survey finding and
103 make the results of the survey available to emergency medical
104 services providers and other stakeholders.

105 (7) The department is encouraged to identify and provide
106 opportunities, partnerships, and resources to secure appropriate
107 equipment for identification of ST elevation myocardial
108 infarction in the field to all licensed emergency medical
109 service providers.

110 (8) The department shall convene stakeholders at least
111 once a year after implementation of the assessment tool to
112 facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices. The

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113 best practices shall be made available on the department's
114 website.

115 (9) Each emergency medical services provider licensed
116 under chapter 401, Florida Statutes, must comply with this
117 section by July 1, 2008.

118 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.