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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

Senator Diaz de la Portilla moved the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 146 and 147

insert:

Section 4. Section 395.4027, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

395.4027 Florida Tele-trauma Pilot Project.-

(1) DEFINITION.-As used in this section, the term "tele-
trauma health care" means the remote management or assistance in
management of the care of a trauma patient using telemedicine
technology to allow the remote presence of a health care



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12 provider from a Level I trauma center in geographic areas in
13 which such trauma centers are not available.

14 (2) FLORIDA TELE-TRAUMA PILOT PROJECT.-

15 (a) A pilot project is created to allow a teaching hospital
16 with multiple hospitals operating under a single license that is
17 in a county with a population of more than two million people
18 and also serves as the surgical training facility for branches
19 of the United States military to provide trauma services at any
20 of its hospitals through the use of telemedicine from its
21 existing level I trauma center, provided that the hospitals that
22 provide these services meet the requirements for staffing and
23 infrastructure of a level II trauma center.

24 (b) Additional trauma centers may not apply or be verified
25 in the impacted trauma service area for the duration of the
26 pilot project.

27 (3) EXPIRATION.-The authorization for the pilot project and
28 the provisions of this section shall expire on December 31,
29 2021.

30 Section 5. Section 395.4045, Florida Statutes, is amended
31 to read:

32 395.4045 Emergency medical service providers; trauma
33 transport protocols; transport of trauma alert victims to trauma
34 centers or tele-trauma hospitals; interfacility transfer.-

35 (1) Each emergency medical services provider licensed under
36 chapter 401 shall transport trauma alert victims to hospitals
37 approved as trauma centers or participating in the tele-trauma
38 pilot project pursuant to s. 395.4027, except as may be provided
39 for either in the department-approved trauma transport protocol
40 of the trauma agency for the geographical area in which the



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41 emergency medical services licensee provides services or, if no
42 such department-approved trauma transport protocol is in effect,
43 as provided for in a department-approved provider's trauma
44 transport protocol.

45 (2) A trauma agency may develop a uniform trauma transport
46 protocol that is applicable to the emergency medical services
47 licensees providing services within the geographical boundaries
48 of the trauma agency, including hospitals participating in the
49 tele-trauma pilot project under s. 395.4027. Development of a
50 uniform trauma protocol by a trauma agency shall be through
51 consultation with interested parties, including, but not limited
52 to, each approved trauma center; physicians specializing in
53 trauma care, emergency care, and surgery in the region; each
54 trauma system administrator in the region; each emergency
55 medical service provider in the region licensed under chapter
56 401, and such providers' respective medical directors.

57 (3) Trauma alert victims shall be identified through the
58 use of a trauma scoring system, including adult and pediatric
59 assessment as specified in rule of the department. The rule
60 shall also include the requirements of licensed emergency
61 medical services providers for performing and documenting these
62 assessments.

63 (4) The department shall specify by rule the subjects and
64 the minimum criteria related to prehospital trauma transport;;
65 trauma center, tele-trauma center, or hospital destination
66 determinations;; and interfacility trauma transfer transport by
67 an emergency medical services provider to be included in a
68 trauma agency's or emergency medical service provider's trauma
69 transport protocol and shall approve or disapprove each such



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70 protocol. Trauma transport protocol rules pertaining to the air
71 transportation of trauma victims shall be consistent with, but
72 not limited to, applicable Federal Aviation Administration
73 regulation. Emergency medical services licensees and trauma
74 agencies shall be subject to monitoring by the department, under
75 ss. 395.401(3) and 401.31(1) for compliance with requirements,
76 as applicable, regarding trauma transport protocols and the
77 transport of trauma victims.

78 (5) If there is no department-approved trauma agency trauma
79 transport protocol for the geographical area in which the
80 emergency medical services license applicant intends to provide
81 services, as provided for in subsection (1), each applicant for
82 licensure as an emergency medical services provider, under
83 chapter 401, must submit and obtain department approval of a
84 trauma transport protocol prior to the department granting a
85 license. The department shall prescribe by rule the submission
86 and approval process for an applicant's trauma transport
87 protocols whether the applicant will be using a trauma agency's
88 or its own trauma transport protocol.

89 (6) If an air ambulance service is available in the trauma
90 service area in which an emergency medical service provider is
91 located, trauma transport protocols shall not provide for
92 transport outside of the trauma service area unless otherwise
93 provided for by written mutual agreement. If air ambulance
94 service is not available and there is no agreement for
95 interagency transport of trauma patients between two adjacent
96 local or regional trauma agencies, both of which include at
97 least one approved trauma center, then the transport of a trauma
98 patient with an immediately life-threatening condition shall be



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99 to the most appropriate trauma center as defined pursuant to
100 trauma transport protocols approved by the department. The
101 provisions of this subsection shall apply only to those counties
102 with a population in excess of 1 million residents.

103 (7) Prior to an interfacility trauma transfer, the
104 emergency medical services provider's medical director or his or
105 her designee must agree, pursuant to protocols and procedures in
106 the emergency medical services provider's trauma transport
107 protocol, that the staff of the transport vehicle has the
108 medical skills, equipment, and resources to provide anticipated
109 patient care as proposed by the transferring physician. The
110 emergency medical services provider's medical director or his or
111 her designee may require appropriate staffing, equipment, and
112 resources to ensure proper patient care and safety during
113 transfer.

114 (8) The department shall adopt and enforce all rules
115 necessary to administer this section. The department shall adopt
116 and enforce rules to specify the submission and approval process
117 for trauma transport protocols or modifications to trauma
118 transport protocols by trauma agencies and licensed emergency
119 medical services providers.

120
121 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

122 And the title is amended as follows:

123 Delete line 22

124 and insert:

125 expiration; creating s. 395.4027, F.S.; establishing
126 the Florida Tele-Trauma Pilot Project; defining the
127 term "tele-trauma health care"; authorizing certain



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128 hospitals to provide remote care to trauma patients at
129 satellite hospitals under certain circumstances;
130 prohibiting the application or verification of
131 additional trauma centers in the impacted trauma
132 service area for the duration of the pilot project;
133 providing for future expiration of the pilot project;
134 amending s. 395.4045, F.S.; requiring emergency
135 medical service providers to transport trauma alert
136 victims to hospitals participating in the tele-trauma
137 pilot project; revising the authorized uniform trauma
138 transport protocol; requiring the Department of Health
139 to specify by rule certain subjects and criteria
140 related to the transport of trauma victims to and from
141 a tele-trauma center; providing an effective date.