

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to health care; providing legislative findings; permitting a Level I, Level II, or pediatric trauma center to operate if it has been in continuous operation after the enactment of chapter 2004-259, Laws of Florida, for at least a consecutive 12-month period, submits an application by June 31, 2015, for a site visit by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, and complies with s. 395.4025(6), F.S.; making a hospital that complies with such requirements eligible for renewal of its 7-year approval period under s. 395.4025(6), F.S.; requiring a hospital that obtains a trauma center consultation report following the site visit to provide the report to the Department of Health; requiring the department to use the trauma center consultation reports in any assessment of the state trauma system; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. The Legislature finds that an integrated, comprehensive, and superior quality trauma system is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Florida and visitors to this state. The Legislature further finds that each trauma center operating in the state is an

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27 integral part of the trauma system and fulfills a critical need
28 for trauma care in the area in which it is located. A disruption
29 in the operational status of a trauma center may disrupt the
30 availability of needed trauma services for residents of and
31 visitors to Florida. The Legislature finds that all currently
32 operating trauma centers in the state are contributing to an
33 inclusive trauma system and are delivering needed trauma
34 services so that optimal trauma care is available and accessible
35 throughout the state.

36 Section 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
37 hospital that has operated continuously as a Level I, Level II,
38 or pediatric trauma center for a consecutive 12-month period
39 after the enactment of chapter 2004-259, Laws of Florida, and
40 that submits an application for a site visit by the American
41 College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma on or before June 30,
42 2015, for the purpose of obtaining a trauma center consultation
43 report may continue to operate as a verified Level I, Level II,
44 or pediatric trauma center until the approval period in s.
45 395.4025(6), Florida Statutes, expires and so long as the
46 hospital continues to meet the other requirements of s.
47 395.4025(6), Florida Statutes, related to trauma center
48 standards and patient outcomes. A hospital that meets the
49 requirements of this section shall be eligible for renewal of
50 its 7-year approval period pursuant to s. 395.4025(6), Florida
51 Statutes.

52 Section 3. Each hospital that obtains a trauma center

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53 consultation report from the American College of Surgeons
54 Committee on Trauma shall provide a copy of the report to the
55 Department of Health. The department shall use the report in any
56 assessment of the state trauma system.

57 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.