

By Senator Harrell

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1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to pediatric care in hospital  
3 emergency departments; amending s. 395.1012, F.S.;  
4 requiring hospital emergency departments to develop  
5 and implement policies and procedures, conduct  
6 training, record weights in a certain manner,  
7 designate a pediatric emergency care coordinator, and  
8 conduct specified assessments; requiring each hospital  
9 emergency department to submit a specified report to  
10 the Agency for Health Care Administration by specified  
11 dates; amending s. 395.1055, F.S.; requiring the  
12 agency to adopt certain rules for comprehensive  
13 emergency management plans, and, in consultation with  
14 the Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children  
15 State Partnership Program, establish minimum standards  
16 for pediatric patient care in hospital emergency  
17 departments; amending s. 408.05, F.S.; requiring the  
18 agency to collect and publish the results of specified  
19 assessments submitted by hospitals by specified dates;  
20 providing an effective date.

21  
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23  
24 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 395.1012,  
25 Florida Statutes, to read:

26 395.1012 Patient safety.—

27 (5) (a) Each hospital with an emergency department must:

28 1. Develop and implement policies and procedures for  
29 pediatric patient care in the emergency department which reflect

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30 evidence-based best practices relating to, at a minimum:

31 a. Triage.

32 b. Measuring and recording vital signs.

33 c. Weighing and recording weights in kilograms.

34 d. Calculating medication dosages.

35 e. Use of pediatric instruments.

36 2. Conduct training at least annually on the policies and  
37 procedures developed under this subsection. The training must  
38 include, at a minimum:

39 a. The use of pediatric instruments, as applicable to each  
40 licensure type, using clinical simulation as defined in s.  
41 464.003.

42 b. Drills that simulate emergency situations. Each  
43 department must conduct drills at least annually.

44 (b) Each hospital emergency department must:

45 1. Designate a pediatric emergency care coordinator. The  
46 pediatric emergency care coordinator must be a physician  
47 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, or a nurse licensed  
48 under chapter 464. The pediatric emergency care coordinator is  
49 responsible for implementation and enforcement of the policies  
50 and procedures adopted under this subsection.

51 2. Conduct the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment  
52 developed by the National Pediatric Readiness Project, in  
53 accordance with timelines established by the National Pediatric  
54 Readiness Project. Each hospital emergency department shall  
55 submit a report with the results of the assessment to the agency  
56 by December 31, 2026, and annually each December 31 during which  
57 the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment is conducted  
58 thereafter.

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59 Section 2. Present subsections (4) through (19) of section  
60 395.1055, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5)  
61 through (20), respectively, a new subsection (4) is added to  
62 that section, and paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of that  
63 section is amended, to read:

64 395.1055 Rules and enforcement.—

65 (1) The agency shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1)  
66 and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this part, which shall  
67 include reasonable and fair minimum standards for ensuring that:

68 (c) A comprehensive emergency management plan is prepared  
69 and updated annually. Such standards must be included in the  
70 rules adopted by the agency after consulting with the Division  
71 of Emergency Management. At a minimum, the rules must provide  
72 for plan components that address emergency evacuation  
73 transportation; adequate sheltering arrangements; postdisaster  
74 activities, including emergency power, food, and water;  
75 postdisaster transportation; supplies; staffing; emergency  
76 equipment; individual identification of residents and transfer  
77 of records, ~~and~~ responding to family inquiries, and the needs of  
78 pediatric and neonatal patients. The comprehensive emergency  
79 management plan is subject to review and approval by the local  
80 emergency management agency. During its review, the local  
81 emergency management agency shall ensure that the following  
82 agencies, at a minimum, are given the opportunity to review the  
83 plan: the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Department of  
84 Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the  
85 Division of Emergency Management. Also, appropriate volunteer  
86 organizations must be given the opportunity to review the plan.  
87 The local emergency management agency shall complete its review

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88 within 60 days and either approve the plan or advise the  
89 facility of necessary revisions.

90 (4) The agency, in consultation with the Florida Emergency  
91 Medical Services for Children State Partnership Program, shall  
92 adopt rules that establish minimum standards for pediatric  
93 patient care in hospital emergency departments, including, but  
94 not limited to, availability and immediate access to pediatric-  
95 specific equipment and supplies.

96 Section 3. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (3) of  
97 section 408.05, Florida Statutes, to read:

98 408.05 Florida Center for Health Information and  
99 Transparency.—

100 (3) HEALTH INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY.—In order to  
101 disseminate and facilitate the availability of comparable and  
102 uniform health information, the agency shall perform the  
103 following functions:

104 (n)1. Collect the results of National Pediatric Readiness  
105 Assessments submitted by hospitals pursuant to s. 395.1012(5).

106 2. By April 1, 2027, and annually each April 1 during which  
107 the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment is conducted  
108 thereafter, publish the overall assessment score for each  
109 hospital emergency department, and provide a comparison to the  
110 national average score when it becomes available.

111 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.