

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

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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
 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 | emergency 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 or a
 47 | physician assistant licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, a
 48 | nurse licensed under chapter 464, or a paramedic licensed under
 49 | chapter 401. The pediatric emergency care coordinator is
 50 | responsible for implementation of and ensuring fidelity to the

51 policies and procedures adopted under this subsection.

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

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

64 395.1055 Rules and enforcement.—

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

69 (c) A comprehensive emergency management plan is prepared
70 and updated annually. Such standards must be included in the
71 rules adopted by the agency after consulting with the Division
72 of Emergency Management. At a minimum, the rules must provide
73 for plan components that address emergency evacuation
74 transportation; adequate sheltering arrangements; postdisaster
75 activities, including emergency power, food, and water;

76 postdisaster transportation; supplies; staffing; emergency
77 equipment; individual identification of residents and transfer
78 of records, ~~and~~ responding to family inquiries, and the needs of
79 pediatric and neonatal patients. The comprehensive emergency
80 management plan is subject to review and approval by the local
81 emergency management agency. During its review, the local
82 emergency management agency shall ensure that the following
83 agencies, at a minimum, are given the opportunity to review the
84 plan: the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Department of
85 Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the
86 Division of Emergency Management. Also, appropriate volunteer
87 organizations must be given the opportunity to review the plan.
88 The local emergency management agency shall complete its review
89 within 60 days and either approve the plan or advise the
90 facility of necessary revisions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

112 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.