

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; authorizing a hospital with an emergency  
9       department to conduct the National Pediatric Readiness  
10      Project's Open Assessment under certain conditions;  
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 requirements for the collection and  
21      publication of such assessment scores; providing an  
22      effective date.

23  
24   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
25

**Section 1. Subsections (6) and (7) are added to section 395.1012, Florida Statutes, to read:**

395.1012 Patient safety.—

(6) (a) Each hospital with an emergency department must:

1. Develop and implement policies and procedures for pediatric patient care in the emergency department which reflect evidence-based best practices relating to, at a minimum:

a. Triage.

b. Measuring and recording vital signs.

c. Weighing and recording weights in kilograms.

d. Calculating medication dosages.

e. Use of pediatric instruments.

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

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

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

(b) Each hospital emergency department must:

1. Designate a pediatric emergency care coordinator. The pediatric emergency care coordinator must be a physician or a physician assistant licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, a nurse licensed under chapter 464, or a paramedic licensed under

chapter 401. The pediatric emergency care coordinator is responsible for implementation of and ensuring fidelity to the policies and procedures adopted under this subsection.

2. Conduct the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment developed by the National Pediatric Readiness Project, in accordance with timelines established by the National Pediatric Readiness Project.

(7) Each hospital with an emergency department may conduct the National Pediatric Readiness Project's Open Assessment during a year in which the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment is not conducted.

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

395.1055 Rules and enforcement.—

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

(c) A comprehensive emergency management plan is prepared and updated annually. Such standards must be included in the rules adopted by the agency after consulting with the Division of Emergency Management. At a minimum, the rules must provide

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

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

100 **Section 3. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (3) of**

101 **section 408.05, Florida Statutes, to read:**

102 408.05 Florida Center for Health Information and  
103 Transparency.—

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

108 (n)1. Collect the overall assessment score of National  
109 Pediatric Readiness Assessments conducted by hospital emergency  
110 departments pursuant to s. 395.1012(6), from the Florida  
111 Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership  
112 Program by December 31, 2026, and by each December 31 during a  
113 year in which the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment is  
114 conducted thereafter.

115 2. By April 1, 2027, and each April 1 following a year in  
116 which the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment is conducted  
117 thereafter, publish the overall assessment score for each  
118 hospital emergency department, and provide a comparison to the  
119 national average score when it becomes available.

120 3. Collect and publish no more than one overall assessment  
121 score per hospital, per year, of assessments conducted pursuant  
122 to s. 395.1012(7), and provide a comparison to the hospital  
123 emergency department's most recently published score pursuant to  
124 subparagraph 2.

125 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.