AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:2841, 2842(3), 2843(A), 2844(B)(3), (15), (16), (17), (20), and (23), (C), and (D), and 2845(A)(1) and (2)(b) and (C)(1), relative to the Louisiana Emergency Response Network; to provide for legislative purpose; to provide for definitions; to provide for the Louisiana Emergency Response Network; to provide for the governing board; to provide for an annual report; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:2841, 2842(3), 2843(A), 2844(B)(3), (15), (16), (17), (20), and (23), (C), and (D), and 2845(A)(1) and (2)(b) and (C)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§2841. Legislative purpose

The legislature declares that in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state against unnecessary trauma and time-sensitive related deaths and incidents of morbidity due to trauma, stroke, and ST-segment myocardial infarction (STEMI), a comprehensive, coordinated statewide system for access to regional trauma-patient trauma, stroke, and STEMI patient care throughout the state be established. This system shall be compatible and interfaced with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

§2842. Definitions

As used in this Chapter the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(3) "Louisiana Emergency Response Network" (LERN) means the statewide system of regional trauma-patient trauma, stroke, and STEMI patient care that is an organized, seamless, coordinated effort among each component of care including
pre-hospital, acute care, post-acute care, rehabilitation, and injury prevention in a
defined geographic area which provides access to local health systems for time-
sensitive patient care treatment and is integrated with local public health systems and

§2843. Louisiana Emergency Response Network; creation; domicile

A. The Louisiana Emergency Response Network is hereby created as a
network which, through its board, shall direct the efforts to decrease trauma-related
trauma, stroke, and STEMI-related deaths and incidents of morbidity and
mortality due to trauma, stroke, and STEMI in Louisiana. By maximizing the
integrated delivery of optimal resources for patients who ultimately need acute
trauma, stroke, and STEMI care, the network shall address the daily demands of
trauma, stroke, and STEMI care and form the basis for disaster preparedness. The
resources required for each component of the system shall be clearly identified,
deployed, and studied to ensure that all injured patients gain access to the appropriate
level of care in a timely, coordinated, and cost-effective manner.

§2844. Governing board; membership, appointment, terms, compensation, vacancies

B. The network shall be governed by a board of twenty-nine members which
shall include:

(3) One member from nominees submitted by the Metropolitan Hospital
Council of New Orleans Louisiana Hospital Association to represent hospitals with
one hundred beds or more.

(15) Two members from the Louisiana House of Representatives to be
appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

(16) Two members from the Louisiana Senate to be appointed by the
president of the Senate.
(17) One member of the Louisiana Alliance of Information and Referral Systems. One member who is an EMS practitioner from a list of nominees submitted by the Louisiana Association of Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technicians (LANREMT).

(20) One member of the Louisiana Hospital Association rehabilitation constituency group to represent hospitals providing rehabilitation services.

(23) One medical director of an emergency medical services agency from nominees submitted by the Louisiana Association of EMS Physicians chapter of the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP).

C.(1) The Except as provided in Paragraphs (B)(15) and (16) of this Section, members listed in Paragraphs (B)(1) through (14) and (17) through (24) of this Section shall be appointed by the governor from a list of qualified candidates nominated by the respective organizations. Each organization shall submit a list of at least four nominees to the governor.

(2) The organizations listed in Paragraphs (B)(1) through (14) and (17) through (24) of this Section shall each submit a list of at least four nominees for the respective board position to the governor.

(3) The members listed in Paragraphs (B)(15) and (16) of this Section shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate, respectively.

D. All members of the board shall serve terms of three years, except for initial terms beginning on the effective date of this Chapter, and determined by lot at the first meeting of the board as follows:

(1) Six shall serve until July 1, 2005.

(2) Seven shall serve until July 1, 2006.

(3) Seven shall serve until July 1, 2007.

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Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in boldface type and underscored are additions.
§2845. Board; functions, powers, and duties

A. The board shall:

(1) Establish and maintain a statewide trauma system that shall include a centralized communication center for resource coordination of medical capabilities for participating trauma centers, as defined by R.S. 40:2171, participating stroke and STEMI centers, as defined by rule, and emergency medical services.

(2) Provide for implementation of a network and plan designed to achieve:

* * *

(b) A reduction in the number and severity of disabilities caused by trauma, stroke, and STEMI.

* * *

C.(1) The board shall submit an annual written report to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare at least thirty days prior to each regular session. The report shall include a summary of the data relevant to the goals set forth in Paragraph (A)(2) of this Section and all other information relevant to trauma-patient trauma, stroke, and STEMI patient care and its delivery in Louisiana through the network.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________