

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 372

BY REPRESENTATIVE CREWS

HEALTH CARE/PROVIDERS: Provides relative to patient wait time for the provision of emergency care

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1134, relative to the transfer of a patient from a ground ambulance provider  
3 to a hospital; to require the Louisiana Department of Health to collect certain  
4 identifying information from a ground ambulance provider under certain  
5 circumstances; to provide for the regulation of data collection; to provide for  
6 definitions; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 40:1134 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1134. Ground ambulance providers and hospitals; transfer of patients seeking  
10 emergency care; collection of data

11 A. As used in this Section:

12 (1) "Ambulance provider" has the same meaning as the term is defined in  
13 R.S. 40:1131(5).

14 (2) "Department" means the Louisiana Department of Health.

15 (3) "Hospital" has the same meaning as the term is defined in R.S.  
16 40:2102(2) but shall not include a rural hospital as defined in RS 40:1189.3.

17 B. The department shall collect data concerning wait times for patients  
18 transported to a hospital by a ground ambulance provider for the purpose of  
19 receiving emergency medical services.

1           C. Ground ambulance providers shall report the following information to the  
2           department:

3           (1) The total number of patients in need of emergency care transported by  
4           the ground ambulance provider to each hospital during the previous quarter.

5           (2) The total number of patients in need of emergency care transported by  
6           the ground ambulance provider to each hospital during the previous quarter who  
7           were not transferred to an appropriate place in the hospital to receive emergency care  
8           from hospital staff within thirty minutes after arriving at the hospital.

9           D.(1) Each ground ambulance provider operating in or transporting a patient  
10           to a hospital in a parish with a population of one hundred and twenty-five thousand  
11           or more shall participate in data collection in accordance with this Section.

12           (2) Each ground ambulance provider operating in or transporting a patient  
13           to a hospital in a parish with a population of less than one hundred and twenty-five  
14           thousand may participate in data collection in accordance with this Section.

15           E. Any data required to be reported in accordance with Subsection C shall  
16           be reported to the department on a quarterly basis.

17           F. The department shall submit an annual report summarizing the data  
18           collected in accordance with this Section to the legislative committees on health and  
19           welfare by February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

20           G. The department may promulgate rules in accordance with the  
21           Administrative Procedure Act to carry out the provisions of this Section.

22           Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 372 Reengrossed

2024 Regular Session

Crews

**Abstract:** Requires the La. Dept. of Health to collect certain information regarding patients seeking emergency care who are transferred from the care of an ambulance provider to a hospital.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to collect data from each ground ambulance provider operating in a parish with a population exceeding 125,000 whenever a patient seeking emergency care is transferred from the ground ambulance provider to a hospital. LDH may collect the same data from a ground ambulance provider in a parish with a population less than 125,000. Proposed law requires the following information to be collected:

- (1) The total number of patients in need of emergency care transported by the ground ambulance provider to each hospital during the previous quarter.
- (2) The total number of such patients who were not transferred to an appropriate place in the hospital to receive emergency care from hospital staff within 30 minutes of arrival at the hospital.

Proposed law requires LDH to submit an annual report summarizing the data collected from ground ambulance providers.

Proposed law requires data to be reported to LDH on a quarterly basis.

Proposed law authorizes LDH to promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides for definitions.

Effective Jan. 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 40:1134)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Remove the requirement for hospitals to report patient wait time data to the La. Dept. of Health.
2. Remove the requirement for hospitals and ground ambulance providers to report the reason for an extensive transfer wait time.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Delete provisions requiring collection by the department of certain detailed data on transportation and wait times for patients seeking emergency care.
2. Add requirement that ground ambulance providers report all the following information to the department: (a) The total number of patients in need of emergency care transported by the provider to a hospital during the previous quarter and (b) The total number of such patients who were not transferred to an appropriate place in the hospital to receive emergency care from hospital staff within 30 minutes of arrival at the hospital.