

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 372

2024 Regular Session

Crews

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

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Removes provisions requiring the La. Dept. of Health to collect data from ground ambulance providers whenever a patient seeking emergency care is transferred from the ground ambulance provider to a hospital.
2. Removes provisions requiring the collection of the total number of patients in need of emergency care transported by the ground ambulance provider to each hospital during the previous quarter and 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.
3. Removes provisions requiring the La. Dept. of Health to submit an annual report summarizing the data collected from ground ambulance providers.
4. Creates the Ambulance Patient Offload Delay Collaborative within the La. Dept. of Health.
5. Directs the bureau of emergency medical services to facilitate discussions and meetings of a statewide collaborative to include the bureau of emergency medical services, the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance, and other appropriate stakeholders.
6. Adds that the collaborative shall hold its first meeting on or before Oct. 1, 2024, and shall meet as often as necessary to accomplish the requirements of proposed law, which tasks the collaborative with studying a number of issues related to extended wait times for patients being transferred from emergency transport to a hospital for emergency treatment.
7. Adds that the collaborative shall prepare and submit a report summarizing the collaborative's findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare by Feb. 1, 2025.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law creates the Ambulance Patient Offload Delay Collaborative (collaborative) within the La. Dept. of Health, bureau of emergency medical services.

Proposed law directs the bureau of emergency medical services to facilitate discussions and meetings of a statewide collaborative to include the bureau, the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance, and other appropriate stakeholders.

Proposed law provides that the collaborative shall hold its first meeting on or before Oct. 1, 2024, and shall meet as often necessary to accomplish the requirements of proposed law.

Proposed law states that the collaborative shall be responsible for all of the following:

- (1) Reviewing the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA).

- (2) Collecting currently available data from emergency medical services and hospitals concerning ambulance patient offload times.
- (3) Exploring enacted legislation and best practices and policies in other areas to address the issue of long patient transfer times.
- (4) Exploring options to reduce demand on hospital emergency departments.
- (5) Proposing a format for facilitating local collaborative communications between ambulance service providers and hospital administrators.

Proposed law provides that the collaborative shall prepare and submit a report summarizing the collaborative's findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare by Feb. 1, 2025.

Proposed law permits the collaborative to meet as necessary after submitting the final report as required by proposed law. If the collaborative continues to meet, it shall submit an annual report to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare by February 1st of each year.

(Adds R.S. 36:259(B)(20) and R.S. 40:1134)