

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLMOTT

HEALTH/EMERG MED SERVICE: Authorizes and directs the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to issue administrative rules concerning transportation of patients with cardiac and stroke emergencies

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and direct the Department of Health and Hospitals to require through  
3 administrative rulemaking that licensed ambulance services establish protocols  
4 related to the assessment and transport of patients with cardiac and stroke  
5 emergencies.

6 WHEREAS, "STEMI", an abbreviation for "ST segment elevation myocardial  
7 infarction", is a type of heart attack characterized by full thickness cardiac muscle damage  
8 resulting from an acute interruption of blood supply to a part of the heart, and is the deadliest  
9 form of heart attack; and

10 WHEREAS, this type of heart attack continues to rank among the leading causes of  
11 death in Louisiana along with stroke, which itself is also a leading cause of long-term  
12 disability in this state; and

13 WHEREAS, rapid identification, diagnosis, and treatment of stroke and STEMI can  
14 save lives, and in some cases can reverse neurological damage that causes paralysis and  
15 speech impairment; and

16 WHEREAS, although new treatments are available that can improve the clinical  
17 outcomes of stroke and STEMI, acute care hospitals often face challenges in deploying the  
18 staff and equipment required to optimally triage and treat stroke and STEMI patients; and

1           WHEREAS, research shows that patients treated in facilities recognized as stroke and  
2 STEMI centers have higher survival rates than patients treated at hospitals which may be in  
3 closer proximity to the patient, but that are not stroke or STEMI centers; and

4           WHEREAS, the Louisiana Emergency Response Network has led a collaborative  
5 effort to recognize facilities that are most appropriate for stroke and STEMI care; and

6           WHEREAS, establishment of pre-hospital destination protocols by licensed  
7 ambulance services can help to ensure that stroke and STEMI patients are transported to the  
8 most appropriate facilities whenever possible.

9           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
10 authorize and direct the Department of Health and Hospitals, referred to hereafter as "the  
11 department", to promulgate such administrative rules as are necessary to require ambulance  
12 services licensed pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 40:1231 et seq. to establish pre-hospital  
13 destination protocols related to the assessment and transport of stroke and STEMI patients.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules of the department shall require, without  
15 limitation, establishment of all of the following:

16           (1) Plans for the transport of acute stroke patients to the closest comprehensive  
17 stroke center, primary stroke center, or acute stroke ready hospital, as defined in LAC  
18 48:I.18701 et seq., within a specified time frame of onset of symptoms.

19           (2) Plans for the transport of STEMI heart attack patients to the closest STEMI  
20 receiving center or, when appropriate, to a STEMI referring center, as defined in LAC  
21 48:I.18901 et seq., within a specified time frame of onset of symptoms.

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules of the department shall provide that:

23           (1) An ambulance service may either establish its own pre-hospital protocols which  
24 conform to the minimum requirements set forth by the department in rule, or adopt the  
25 pre-hospital protocols developed and promulgated by the Louisiana Emergency Response  
26 Network.

27           (2) If a life-threatening condition arises during the transport of a stroke or STEMI  
28 heart attack patient, the ambulance service shall transport the patient to the nearest  
29 appropriate hospital.

1           (3) Each licensed ambulance service shall submit to the department annually a copy  
2 of its stroke and STEMI transportation protocol.

3           (4) Any ambulance service that revises its stroke and STEMI transportation protocol  
4 shall submit the revised protocol to the department no more than thirty days after  
5 implementation of the protocol.

6           (5) Nothing in the rules of the department shall be construed to limit the right of a  
7 patient to refuse emergency transport to a recommended destination.

8           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall keep on file each  
9 transportation protocol it receives pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with this  
10 Resolution, and shall make such protocols available to any person upon request.

11          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall promulgate the  
12 administrative rules required by this Resolution prior to October 1, 2015.

13          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
14 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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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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