

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 18

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

HEALTH SERVICES. Provides relative to the authority of the Louisiana Emergency Response Network during an emergency or disaster. (8/1/22)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:2843, relative to the authority of the Louisiana Emergency
3 Response Network; to provide for exclusive authority to direct and facilitate transfers
4 during a declared disaster; to provide for authority over inpatients and those waiting
5 for and receiving emergency department care; to provide for care within a defined
6 geographic area; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 40:2843 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §2843. Louisiana Emergency Response Network; creation; domicile

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

1 coordinated, and cost-effective manner.

2 **B. During a disaster or emergency declared pursuant to R.S. 29:724, the**
3 **Louisiana Emergency Response Network shall have the exclusive authority to**
4 **direct and facilitate the transfer of any hospital patient, including but not**
5 **limited to inpatient admits, individuals waiting to be seen in the emergency**
6 **department, and individuals under the care of the emergency department staff.**
7 **Transfers shall be prioritized within a defined geographic area to ensure**
8 **continuity of care.**

9 ~~B.C.~~ The domicile of the network shall be Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christine Arbo Peck.

DIGEST

SB 18 Original

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Present law created the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) to direct efforts to decrease trauma-related deaths and incidents of morbidity and mortality due to trauma in Louisiana.

Proposed law retains present law and adds authority for LERN to direct and facilitate the transfer of any hospital patient during a declared state of emergency. Transfers should be prioritized within a defined geographic area to ensure continuity of care.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 40:2843)