Present law provides for the Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN), a comprehensive, coordinated statewide system for access to regional trauma-patient care throughout the state. Present law further provides for the system to be compatible and interfaced with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Proposed law retains present law and expands the scope to include patient care for strokes and ST-segment myocardial infarction (STEMI).

Present law provides for a governing board of 29 members and provides for the qualifications of the membership. Proposed law changes the nominating entity for the member representing hospitals with 100 beds or more from the Metropolitan Hospital Council of New Orleans to the La. Hospital Association. Proposed law further removes the 211 member of the La. Alliance of Information and Referral Systems and adds one EMS practitioner from a list of nominees submitted by the La. Association of Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician.

Present law provides that all members of the board shall serve terms of three years except for the terms of the initial board members. Proposed law retains present law and repeals outdated language relative to the initial terms.

Present law provides for the establishment and maintenance of a statewide trauma system, which shall include a centralized communication center for resource coordination of medical capabilities for participating trauma centers and emergency medical services. Proposed law retains present law and expands the scope to include participating stroke and STEMI centers.

Present law provides for an annual written report to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare at least 30 days prior to each regular session which shall include a summary of the data relevant to the goals of present law and all other information relevant to trauma-patient care and its delivery in this state through the network. Proposed law retains present law and expands the scope to include data regarding patient care for strokes and STEMI.

(Amends R.S. 40:2841, 2842(3), 2843(A), 2844(B)(3), (17), (20), and (23), (C), and (D), and 2845(A)(1) and (2)(b) and (C)(1))