

2 State of Arkansas
3 90th General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1465

5
6 By: Representative Hammer

7 Filed with: House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS STROKE CENTER
11 DESIGNATION ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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15 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS STROKE CENTER
16 DESIGNATION ACT.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 9, is amended to add an
22 additional subchapter to read as follows:

23 Subchapter 15 – Arkansas Stroke Center Designation Act

24
25 20-9-1501. Title.

26 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Stroke Center
27 Designation Act".

28
29 20-9-1502. Legislative findings.

30 The General Assembly finds that:

31 (1) Due to high stroke mortality rates in Arkansas, a
32 coordinated system of care for stroke is needed throughout the State of
33 Arkansas with the goal of identifying and treating stroke victims in a timely
34 manner, improving outcomes for stroke patients, reducing the number of deaths
35 due to stroke, and improving the quality of life for stroke survivors; and

1 (2) A public health need exists for acute care hospitals in the
2 State of Arkansas to be designated as comprehensive stroke centers, primary
3 stroke centers, and acute stroke-ready centers to ensure the rapid triage,
4 diagnostic evaluation, and treatment of patients suffering a stroke.

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6 20-9-1503. Definitions.

7 As used in this subchapter, "hospital" means a healthcare facility
8 licensed as a hospital by the Division of Health Facilities Services of the
9 Department of Health under § 20-9-213.

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11 20-9-1504. Comprehensive stroke center.

12 (a)(1) Upon application by a hospital, the Department of Health shall
13 designate the hospital as a comprehensive stroke center if the hospital is
14 certified as a comprehensive stroke center by the American Heart Association,
15 the American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission, or any other
16 nationally recognized certifying body designated by the department by rule.

17 (2) Additional criteria are not be required for establishing or
18 maintaining designation.

19 (b) The designation shall last as long as the hospital remains
20 certified.

21 (c) The department may remove a hospital's designation as a
22 comprehensive stroke center if:

23 (1) The hospital requests removal of the designation; or

24 (2) The department determines that the certificate recognizing
25 the hospital as a comprehensive stroke center has been suspended or revoked.

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27 20-9-1505. Primary stroke center.

28 (a)(1) Upon application by a hospital, the Department of Health shall
29 designate the hospital as a primary stroke center if the hospital is
30 certified as a primary stroke center by the American Heart Association, the
31 American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission, or any other nationally
32 recognized certifying body designated by the department by rule.

33 (2) Additional criteria are not be required for establishing or
34 maintaining designation.

35 (b) The designation shall last as long as the hospital remains
36 certified.

1 (c) The department may remove a hospital's designation as a primary
2 stroke center if:

3 (1) The hospital requests removal of the designation; or

4 (2) The department determines that the certificate recognizing
5 the hospital as a primary stroke center has been suspended or revoked.

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7 20-9-1506. Acute stroke-ready hospital.

8 (a)(1) Upon application by a hospital, the Department of Health shall
9 designate the hospital as an acute stroke-ready hospital if the hospital is
10 certified as an acute stroke-ready hospital by the American Heart Association
11 the American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission, or any other
12 nationally recognized certifying body designated by the department by rule.

13 (2) Additional criteria are not be required for establishing or
14 maintaining designation.

15 (b) The designation shall last as long as the hospital remains
16 certified.

17 (c) The department may remove a hospital's designation as an acute
18 stroke-ready hospital if:

19 (1) The hospital requests removal of the designation; or

20 (2) The department determines that the certificate recognizing
21 the hospital as an acute stroke-ready hospital has been suspended or revoked.

22
23 20-9-1507. List of stroke centers.

24 On or before July 1 of each year, the Department of Health shall:

25 (1) Prepare a list of designated acute stroke-ready hospitals,
26 primary stroke centers, and comprehensive stroke centers in the state; and

27 (2) Post the list of designated acute stroke-ready hospitals,
28 primary stroke centers, and comprehensive stroke centers on the website of
29 the Department of Health.

30
31 20-9-1508. Guidelines.

32 (a)(1) The Department of Health, in coordination with independent
33 licensed emergency medical services providers, shall establish and implement
34 prehospital care guidelines that include without limitation assessment,
35 treatment, and transport of stroke patients by licensed emergency medical
36 services providers.

1 (2) The guidelines shall include plans for triage and transport
2 of acute stroke patients to the closest comprehensive stroke center or
3 primary stroke center or, when appropriate, to an acute stroke-ready
4 hospital, within a specified time frame from the onset of symptoms.

5 (b) The State Board of Health shall promulgate rules to ensure that
6 licensed emergency medical services providers receive regular training on the
7 assessment and treatment of stroke patients if funding is available.

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9 20-9-1509. Patient treatment.

10 (a) This subchapter shall be interpreted to recognize that all
11 patients should be treated individually based on each patient's needs and
12 circumstances.

13 (b) This subchapter does not:

14 (1) Establish a standard of care or a medical practice
15 guideline; or

16 (2) Restrict the authority of a hospital to provide services for
17 which it has been licensed.

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20 Referred by the Arkansas House of Representatives

21 Prepared by: VJF

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