
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6976

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DIVERSION.

SUMMARY

This bill (1) requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish emergency department diversion requirements for hospitals when they reroute incoming ambulances to other hospitals and (2) subjects emergency medical services (EMS) organizations to disciplinary action for noncompliance with related requirements.

Under the bill, “emergency department diversion” occurs when hospitals reroute incoming ambulances to other hospitals because (1) their emergency department’s resources are fully committed and unavailable to incoming ambulance patients (i.e., “saturation”) or (2) they lack medical capability.

Specifically, the bill requires DPH to establish the following:

1. hospital emergency department diversion requirements that at least require each hospital to adopt related policies and DPH to set their required content;
2. the permissible grounds and procedures for a hospital to declare a diversion, and the procedures it must follow after doing so;
3. requirements for hospitals receiving diverted patients; and
4. requirements for licensed or certified EMS organizations when a hospital declares an emergency department diversion.

Before declaring an emergency department diversion, the bill requires a hospital to notify DPH as the commissioner prescribes.

The bill subjects EMS organizations to various DPH disciplinary actions (e.g., license suspension, revocation, or censure) for failure to comply with DPH's requirements.

Under the bill, the DPH commissioner must adopt regulations to implement these provisions. She may implement policies and procedures while doing so if she publishes her intent to adopt regulations on the eRegulations system within 20 days after implementing the policies and procedures. The policies and procedures are valid until the final regulations are adopted.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 9 (03/05/2025)