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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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S.B. 21
134th General Assembly

Final Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the General Assembly

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Antonio and Manning

Effective date: September 21, 2021

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SUMMARY

- Requires the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services to develop guidelines for the assessment, triage, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients.
- Directs each emergency medical service organization to base its stroke patient protocols, required by continuing law, on the State Board's guidelines.
- Requires the State Board to make available to the public copies of stroke patient protocols established by emergency medical service organizations.
- Requires each emergency medical service organization to provide to its emergency medical service personnel training in the assessment and treatment of stroke patients.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

S.B. 21 revises the law governing protocols for the assessment, triage, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients by emergency medical service personnel. Under continuing law, the medical director or cooperating physician advisory board of each emergency medical service organization (1) must establish written protocols for the organization's emergency medical service personnel to follow when treating and transporting stroke patients and (2) must provide copies of its protocols to certain entities. The act requires these protocols to be based on guidelines the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services must develop.¹ It also directs emergency medical service organizations to submit protocols to specified entities on an annual basis and provide certain stroke-related training to its emergency medical service personnel.

¹ R.C. 4765.401.

Stroke patient guidelines

Under S.B. 21, the State Board must devise – not later than December 20, 2021 – guidelines for the assessment, triage, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients. In doing so, the State Board must consult with a diverse group of hospital leaders around Ohio, including those that represent large health systems, hospitals not affiliated with a large health system, and hospitals located in rural communities, as well as comprehensive stroke centers, primary stroke centers, and acute stroke ready hospitals recognized under continuing law by the Department of Health. Once developed, the guidelines must be made available on the Board’s website.²

The act also requires the State Board to review and update its guidelines periodically. If updates are made, the Board must post the updated versions to its website. Additionally, the act allows the State Board to distribute guidelines and their updated versions in any other manner it finds acceptable.³

Emergency medical service organization stroke patient protocols

Continuing law requires each emergency medical service organization to establish written protocols to be followed by its emergency medical service personnel when assessing stroke patients and transporting them to hospitals. Under S.B. 21, these protocols must be based on the guidelines to be developed by the State Board. The act grants the organizations until March 20, 2022, to do so.⁴

Protocol copies

Each emergency medical service organization must provide copies of its protocols to the State Board as well as the Regional Director or Regional Advisory Board for the organization’s emergency medical services region. The act maintains this requirement, but directs emergency medical service organizations to submit them on an annual basis and also to the Ohio Department of Health. It further requires the State Board to make copies available to the public.⁵

Training

S.B. 21 requires each emergency medical service organization to provide periodically to its emergency medical service personnel training in the assessment and treatment of stroke patients, including training in the assessment of stroke severity.⁶

² R.C. 4765.401(A).

³ R.C. 4765.401(A).

⁴ R.C. 4765.401(A).

⁵ R.C. 4765.401(B).

⁶ R.C. 4765.401(C).

Immunity from civil liability

Continuing law generally grants immunity from civil liability to an emergency medical service organization's medical director and members of its cooperating physician advisory board when performing official duties.⁷ S.B. 21 makes clear that such immunity extends to any of their duties established by the act.⁸

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-26-21
Reported, S. Health	03-03-21
Passed Senate (32-0)	03-03-21
Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety	05-18-21
Passed House (91-0)	06-10-21

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⁷ R.C. 4765.49, not in the act.

⁸ R.C. 4765.401(D).