

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 430

Introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernández

February 19, 2015

An act to amend Section 1798.162 of, and to add Section 1797.120 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency medical services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 430, as introduced, Roger Hernández. Trauma care systems.

Existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act, establishes the Emergency Medical Services Authority, which is responsible for the coordination and integration of all state agencies concerning emergency medical services. Existing law requires the authority to develop planning and implementation guidelines for emergency medical services systems that addresses specified components, including data collection and evaluation. The act authorizes each county to establish an emergency medical services program under which the county is required to designate a local emergency medical services (EMS) agency. Existing law authorizes a local EMS agency to implement a trauma care system only if the system meets the minimum standards adopted by the authority, as prescribed. Existing law requires a local EMS agency that elects to implement a trauma care system to develop and submit a plan for that trauma care system to the authority in accordance with regulations adopted by the authority.

This bill would require a local EMS agency implementing a trauma care system, as part of the minimum standards, to, among other things, commission an independent nonprofit organization or governmental entity qualified to assess trauma systems to conduct a comprehensive

regional assessment of equitability and access to its trauma system, and would require the assessment to be performed in conjunction with other local EMS agencies in that agency’s region and the regional trauma coordinating committee (RTCC) established by the authority for that region. The bill would require the local EMS agencies to submit the results of each assessment to the authority. The bill would require that the assessments occur at least once every 5 years, but would authorize the RTCCs and the authority to determine, after the initial assessment, whether it would be proper for subsequent assessments to occur on a more frequent basis, as specified. The bill would authorize the 5 RTCCs to assess and provide recommendations to the local EMS agencies and the authority, and would require the local EMS agencies implementing a trauma care system to incorporate these recommendations into their respective trauma care plans.

This bill would require the authority to develop a statewide trauma plan that addresses all aspects of a trauma care system and would require the authority to report to the Legislature, by March 1, 2016, the status of the development or implementation of the statewide trauma plan.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1797.120 is added to the Health and
 2 Safety Code, to read:
 3 1797.120. (a) The authority shall develop a statewide trauma
 4 plan that addresses all aspects of a trauma care system, including,
 5 but not limited to, a statewide plan for trauma in the case of
 6 bioterrorism, natural disasters, mass casualties, and access to
 7 trauma care for rural and urban communities.
 8 (b) (1) By March 31, 2016, the authority shall report to the
 9 Legislature, in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
 10 Code, the status of the development or implementation of the
 11 statewide trauma plan.
 12 (2) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under
 13 paragraph (1) is inoperative on March 31, 2020, pursuant to Section
 14 10231.5 of the Government Code.
 15 SEC. 2. Section 1798.162 of the Health and Safety Code is
 16 amended to read:

1 1798.162. (a) A local emergency medical services agency
2 may implement a trauma care system only if the system meets the
3 minimum standards set forth in the regulations for implementation
4 established by the authority and the plan required by Section
5 1797.257 has been submitted to, and approved by, the authority.
6 Prior to submitting the plan for the trauma care system to the
7 authority, a local emergency medical services agency shall hold a
8 public hearing and shall give adequate notice of the public hearing
9 to all hospitals and other interested parties in the area proposed to
10 be included in the system. This subdivision does not preclude a
11 local EMS agency from adopting trauma care system standards
12 which are more stringent than those established by the regulations.

13 (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) or any other provision of
14 this article, the Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services
15 Agency may implement a trauma care system prior to the adoption
16 of regulations by the authority pursuant to Section 1798.161. If
17 the Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services Agency
18 implements a trauma care system pursuant to this subdivision prior
19 to the adoption of those regulations by the authority, the agency
20 shall prepare and submit to the authority a trauma care system plan
21 ~~which~~ that conforms to any regulations subsequently adopted by
22 the authority.

23 (c) *A local emergency medical services agency implementing*
24 *a trauma care system shall, as part of the minimum standards*
25 *adopted pursuant to Section 1798.161, do both of the following:*

26 (1) *Commission an independent nonprofit organization or*
27 *governmental entity qualified to assess trauma systems to conduct*
28 *a comprehensive regional assessment of equitability and access*
29 *to its trauma system. This assessment shall be performed on a*
30 *regional basis, in conjunction with other local emergency medical*
31 *services agencies in that agency's region and the regional trauma*
32 *coordinating committee (RTCC) established by the authority for*
33 *that region. The local emergency medical services agencies shall*
34 *submit the results of each assessment to the authority. These*
35 *assessments shall occur at least once every five years. After the*
36 *first assessment, the RTCCs, along with the authority, may*
37 *determine whether it would be proper for subsequent assessments*
38 *to occur on a more frequent basis depending on the outcomes of*
39 *the initial assessment, including outcomes with respect to access*

1 to trauma care for rural and urban communities and trauma care
2 in case of bioterrorism, natural disasters, and mass casualties.

3 (2) (A) Establish an oversight committee composed of
4 representatives from county departments who have expertise in
5 trauma care systems, as well as in bioterrorism preparedness
6 programs, for the purpose of assisting, and investigating the
7 feasibility of, health facilities in underserved areas serving as a
8 trauma facility within the trauma care system.

9 (B) The oversight committee shall make recommendations, and
10 shall report on its activities to the local emergency medical services
11 agency.

12 (d) Each of the five RTCCs may assess and provide
13 recommendations to the local emergency medical services agencies
14 and to the authority. The local emergency medical services
15 agencies implementing a trauma care system shall incorporate
16 these recommendations into their respective trauma care plans
17 and submit these revised plans to the authority for approval.