

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 430

Introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernández
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Rodriguez)

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 amended, 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.

1 SEC. 2. Section 1798.162 of the Health and Safety Code is
2 amended to read:

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

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

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

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

1 to occur on a more frequent basis depending on the outcomes of
2 the initial assessment, including outcomes with respect to access
3 to trauma care for rural and urban communities and trauma care
4 in case of bioterrorism, natural disasters, and mass casualties.

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

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

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