

Senate Bill No. 120—Senators Heck, Hardy, Nolan and Lee

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Hardy, Conklin,
Oceguera and Sibley

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to emergency medical services; making various changes concerning programs for the treatment of trauma and the designation of hospitals as centers for the treatment of trauma in larger counties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the State Board of Health to establish a program for treating trauma victims and for transporting and admitting trauma victims to centers for the treatment of trauma. Existing law also requires the State Board of Health to adopt regulations establishing standards for the designation of hospitals as centers for the treatment of trauma. (NRS 450B.237)

By replacing the reference to “State Board of Health” with “board,” this bill transfers the responsibility for establishing the program from the State Board of Health to the county or district board of health in a county with a population of 400,000 or more (currently Clark County). The State Board of Health retains responsibility for establishing the program in each county with a population of less than 400,000 (currently all counties other than Clark County).

This bill also requires the county or district board of health in each county whose population is 400,000 or more to establish standards for the designation of hospitals as centers for the treatment of trauma and provides that the Administrator of the Health Division may not designate a hospital as a center for the treatment of trauma unless the proposal has been approved by the State Board of Health and the county or district board of health. Finally, this bill prohibits the Administrator of the Health Division from designating a hospital as a center for trauma in such larger counties unless the county or district board of health has established a comprehensive trauma system plan for the county.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 450B.237 is hereby amended to read as follows:

450B.237 1. The ~~{State Board of Health}~~ **board** shall establish a program for treating persons who require treatment for trauma and for transporting and admitting such persons to centers for the treatment of trauma. The program must provide for the development, operation and maintenance of a system of communication to be used in transporting such persons to the appropriate centers.

2. The State Board of Health shall adopt regulations which establish the standards for the designation of hospitals as centers for the treatment of trauma. The State Board of Health shall consider

the standards adopted by the American College of Surgeons for a center for the treatment of trauma as a guide for such regulations. The Administrator of the Health Division shall not approve a proposal to designate a hospital as a center for the treatment of trauma unless the hospital meets the standards ~~†~~.

~~—3.† established pursuant to this subsection.~~

3. Each county or district board of health in a county whose population is 400,000 or more shall adopt regulations which establish the standards for the designation of hospitals in the county as centers for the treatment of trauma which are consistent with the regulations adopted by the State Board of Health pursuant to subsection 2. A county or district board of health shall not approve a proposal to designate a hospital as a center for the treatment of trauma unless the hospital meets the standards established pursuant to this subsection.

4. A proposal to designate a hospital located in a county whose population is 400,000 or more as a center for the treatment of trauma:

(a) Must be approved by the Administrator of the Health Division and by the county or district board of health of the county in which the hospital is located; and

(b) May not be approved unless the county or district board of health of the county in which the hospital is located has established and adopted a comprehensive trauma system plan concerning the treatment of trauma in the county, which includes, without limitation, consideration of the future trauma needs of the county, consideration of and plans for the development and designation of new centers for the treatment of trauma in the county based on the demographics of the county and the manner in which the county may most effectively provide trauma services to persons in the county.

5. Upon approval by the Administrator of the Health Division and, if the hospital is located in a county whose population is 400,000 or more, the county or district board of health of the county in which the hospital is located, of a proposal to designate a hospital as a center for the treatment of trauma, ~~the~~ the Administrator of the Health Division shall issue written approval which designates the hospital as such a center. As a condition of continuing designation the hospital must comply with the following requirements:

(a) The hospital must admit any injured person who requires medical care.

(b) Any physician who provides treatment for trauma must be qualified to provide that treatment.

(c) The hospital must maintain the standards specified in the regulations adopted pursuant to ~~subsection 2.†~~ subsections 2 and 3.

Sec. 2. The amendatory provisions of this act do not affect any hospital that has been designated as a center for the treatment of trauma before October 1, 2005.

Sec. 3. The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.

