

CHAPTER 2026-105

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 355

An act relating to health care patient protection; amending s. 395.1012, F.S.; requiring hospital emergency departments to develop and implement policies and procedures, conduct training, record weights in a certain manner, designate a pediatric emergency care coordinator, and conduct specified assessments; authorizing a hospital with an emergency department to conduct the National Pediatric Readiness Project's Open Assessment under certain conditions; amending s. 395.1055, F.S.; requiring the agency to adopt certain rules for comprehensive emergency management plans, and, in consultation with the Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership Program, establish minimum standards for pediatric patient care in hospital emergency departments; amending s. 408.05, F.S.; requiring the agency to collect and publish the results of specified assessments submitted by hospitals by specified dates; providing requirements for the collection and publication of such assessment scores; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (6) and (7) are added to section 395.1012, Florida Statutes, to read:

395.1012 Patient safety.—

(6)(a) Each hospital with an emergency department must:

1. Develop and implement policies and procedures for pediatric patient care in the emergency department which reflect evidence-based best practices relating to, at a minimum:

a. Triage.

b. Measuring and recording vital signs.

c. Weighing and recording weights in kilograms.

d. Calculating medication dosages.

e. Use of pediatric instruments.

2. Conduct training at least annually on the policies and procedures developed under this subsection. The training must include, at a minimum:

a. The use of pediatric instruments, as applicable to each licensure type, using clinical simulation as defined in s. 464.003.

b. Drills that simulate emergency situations. Each emergency department must conduct drills at least annually.

(b) Each hospital emergency department must:

1. Designate a pediatric emergency care coordinator. The pediatric emergency care coordinator must be a physician or a physician assistant licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, a nurse licensed under chapter 464, or a paramedic licensed under chapter 401. The pediatric emergency care coordinator is responsible for implementation of and ensuring fidelity to the policies and procedures adopted under this subsection.

2. Conduct the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment developed by the National Pediatric Readiness Project, in accordance with timelines established by the National Pediatric Readiness Project.

(7) Each hospital with an emergency department may conduct the National Pediatric Readiness Project's Open Assessment during a year in which the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment is not conducted.

Section 2. Subsections (4) through (19) of section 395.1055, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) through (20), respectively, paragraph (c) of subsection (1) is amended, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section to read:

395.1055 Rules and enforcement.—

(1) The agency shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this part, which shall include reasonable and fair minimum standards for ensuring that:

(c) A comprehensive emergency management plan is prepared and updated annually. Such standards must be included in the rules adopted by the agency after consulting with the Division of Emergency Management. At a minimum, the rules must provide for plan components that address emergency evacuation transportation; adequate sheltering arrangements; postdisaster activities, including emergency power, food, and water; post-disaster transportation; supplies; staffing; emergency equipment; individual identification of residents and transfer of records, ~~and responding to family inquiries, and the needs of pediatric and neonatal patients.~~ The comprehensive emergency management plan is subject to review and approval by the local emergency management agency. During its review, the local emergency management agency shall ensure that the following agencies, at a minimum, are given the opportunity to review the plan: the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the Division of Emergency Management. Also, appropriate volunteer organizations must be given the opportunity to review the plan. The local emergency management agency shall complete its review within 60 days and either approve the plan or advise the facility of necessary revisions.

(4) The agency, in consultation with the Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership Program, shall adopt rules that establish minimum standards for pediatric patient care in hospital emergency departments, including, but not limited to, availability and immediate access to pediatric specific equipment and supplies.

Section 3. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (3) of section 408.05, Florida Statutes, to read:

408.05 Florida Center for Health Information and Transparency.—

(3) HEALTH INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY.—In order to disseminate and facilitate the availability of comparable and uniform health information, the agency shall perform the following functions:

(n)1. Collect the overall assessment score of National Pediatric Readiness Assessments conducted by hospital emergency departments pursuant to s. 395.1012(6), from the Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership Program by December 31, 2026, and by each December 31 during a year in which the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment is conducted thereafter.

2. By April 1, 2027, and each April 1 following a year in which the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment is conducted thereafter, publish the overall assessment score for each hospital emergency department, and provide a comparison to the national average score when it becomes available.

3. Collect and publish no more than one overall assessment score per hospital, per year, of assessments conducted pursuant to s. 395.1012(7), and provide a comparison to the hospital emergency department’s most recently published score pursuant to subparagraph 2.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor May 22, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 22, 2026.