
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 181 (File 19, as amended by Senate "A")

AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CROWDING.

SUMMARY

This bill generally requires each in-state hospital with an emergency department, starting by January 1, 2025, and until January 1, 2029, to annually analyze certain data from its emergency department (ED). It also allows exclusively state-run hospitals to do this. Hospitals may analyze the data directly or in consultation with an in-state hospital association.

Hospitals must use the data with the goals of (1) developing policies or procedures to reduce admission wait times after a patient presents to the ED, (2) informing potential ways to improve admission efficiencies, and (3) examining root causes for admission delays.

Specifically, the data must include, for the prior year:

1. the number of patients treated in the ED;
2. the number of patients admitted after being seen in the ED, with their average time from first presentation to the ED until admission; and
3. the percentage of patients admitted after presenting to the ED who were transferred to an available bed outside of the ED more than four hours after the patient's admitting order was completed.

Under the bill, each hospital conducting this analysis must annually report to the Public Health Committee, starting by March 1, 2025, and until March 1, 2029, on its findings and any recommendations to achieve the goals above.

*Senate Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which required the Department of Public Health commissioner, in consultation with certain parties, to annually evaluate similar data and post it online. The amendment adds the provisions (1) requiring hospitals to analyze the data, use it in line with certain goals, and annually report on the analysis; (2) allowing, rather than requiring, state-run hospitals to participate; and (3) setting a 2029 end date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/04/2024)