



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 464 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Reported by Senate Health, Human Services, & Medicaid

Sponsor: Reps. Lipps and Antonio

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Stroke center recognition

State & Local Fiscal Highlights

- The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) may experience an increase in costs to administer stroke center recognition. ODH may also experience an increase in administrative costs to compile a list of recognized hospitals, maintain and update the information on its website, and adopt rules.
- A government-owned hospital may choose to apply for certification from an accrediting organization approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or another organization acceptable to ODH, which would likely require the payment of a certification fee.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill provides for recognition of stroke centers and the establishment of protocols for assessment, treatment, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients.

Recognition of stroke centers and acute stroke ready hospitals

The bill permits eligible hospitals to be recognized by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) as comprehensive or primary stroke centers or acute stroke ready hospitals. To be recognized, a hospital must submit an application to ODH. The application must be submitted in a manner prescribed by the Department. To qualify for recognition, a hospital must be certified by an accrediting organization approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or another organization acceptable to ODH. If a hospital meets this requirement and submits a complete application, ODH must recognize it. The bill also specifies that if an accrediting organization establishes a level of stroke certification that is in addition to the three levels provided for in the bill, ODH must recognize a hospital certified at that level. The bill prohibits a hospital from representing itself as a stroke center unless it is recognized by ODH as such. However, the bill does not prohibit a hospital from representing itself as having a relationship or affiliation with a comprehensive or primary stroke center or acute stroke ready hospital that is recognized by ODH or a hospital in another state that

is certified by an accrediting organization approved by CMS. ODH is required to end its recognition of a hospital if the accrediting organization revokes, rescinds, or otherwise terminates the hospital's certification, or if the certification expires.

No later than the first day of January and July of each year, ODH must compile and send a list of recognized hospitals to the medical director and cooperating physician advisory board of each emergency medical service (EMS) organization. ODH must also maintain a comprehensive list of recognized hospitals on ODH's website and update the list not later than 30 days after a hospital is recognized or its recognition ends. ODH may adopt rules as necessary to implement the bill's provisions.

Fiscal impact

ODH will experience an increase in costs to develop an application process and to review applications for hospital recognition, as well as to develop a process for investigating complaints. There could also be hearing costs related to the suspension or revocation of recognition, including costs to hire an independent hearing officer, a court reporter, and staff time. ODH will also experience an increase in administrative costs to compile and send the annual list of recognized hospitals to EMS organizations, maintain and update the list on its website, and may also experience an increase in administration costs to adopt rules.

As a result of the bill, a government-owned hospital may choose to pursue certification from an accrediting organization approved by CMS or another organization that certifies hospitals, which could require the payment of a certification fee.

Emergency medical service protocols

The bill requires the medical director or cooperating physician advisory board of each EMS organization to establish written protocols for the assessment, treatment, and transport of stroke patients by EMS personnel. In establishing protocols, the medical director or cooperating physician advisory board must consult with one or more local hospitals. Each EMS organization is required to provide copies of its protocols to the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services and the regional director or regional advisory board for the organization's EMS region.

Fiscal impact

EMS organizations could realize a minimal increase in costs to establish the protocols. Any fiscal impact for government-owned hospitals or EMS organizations related to the implementation of the protocols will depend on the protocols developed.