

No. 1984-209

AN ACT

HB 1627

Amending the act of November 30, 1976 (P.L.1207, No.265), entitled "An act to provide assistance and encouragement for the development of comprehensive area emergency medical services systems," providing for a Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation; providing for the accreditation of trauma centers; further defining the powers of the secretary; extending the act; and providing for the legislative intent.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 2 of the act of November 30, 1976 (P.L.1207, No.265), known as the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act, reenacted and amended July 13, 1979 (P.L.107, No.44), is amended by adding definitions to read:

Section 2. Definitions.—For the purposes of this act:

* * *

"Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation" means a nonprofit Pennsylvania corporation whose function is to accredit trauma centers in the State. Members of the foundation shall include representatives of State organizations that represent hospitals, physicians, registered professional nurses and other emergency medical services organization representatives with expertise in the delivery of trauma services, and the secretary or his designee. Each organization and the secretary shall have one voting member.

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"Trauma center" means a facility accredited by the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation.

Section 2. Section 8 of the act is amended to read:

Section 8. Administration.—(a) The secretary shall administer the program of grants and contracts authorized by this act through an identifiable administrative unit within the Department of Health. Such unit shall also be responsible for collecting, analyzing, cataloging, and disseminating all data useful in the development and operation of emergency medical services systems, including data derived from reviews and evaluations of emergency medical services systems assisted under section 5.

(b) The secretary may waive compliance with regulations as they pertain to certain specific eligible entities if he determines that compliance is not necessary for a specific eligible entity to set up and operate an emergency medical services system provided that due notice is given of such action.

(c) ***The secretary shall have the following powers and duties:***

(1) ***Recognize and certify all trauma centers accredited pursuant to section 8.1 and integrate certified trauma centers into the emergency medical services system.***

(2) Investigate complaints related to trauma centers and forward the results of the investigation to the foundation with a recommendation for action.

(3) Compile and maintain statistics on mortality and morbidity on multi-system trauma victims. This data collection shall be coordinated with other data collection activities and shall not be duplicative.

Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 8.1. Trauma Center Accreditation.—(a) The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation shall develop a private voluntary accreditation program to:

(1) Establish standards for the operation of trauma centers in this Commonwealth, adopting at a minimum the current guidelines for trauma centers as defined by the American College of Surgeons for Level I or Level II trauma centers.

(2) Evaluate any hospital which makes application to the foundation to determine if the applicant hospital meets the standards as adopted by the foundation. Such evaluation shall include the conduct of hospital site visits by accreditation survey teams composed of independent, qualified persons selected by the foundation.

(3) Issue certificates of accreditation to those hospitals which meet the accreditation standards as defined by this act. Certificates of accreditation may be revoked by the foundation if it is determined that the trauma center no longer meets accreditation standards as defined by this act.

(b) Two years after the effective date of this act, the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation shall forward a report to the General Assembly which describes the result of the trauma center accreditation process in this Commonwealth. Such report shall identify those hospitals which have been accredited.

(c) Two years after the effective date of this act, the department shall forward a report to the General Assembly documenting the impact of the trauma center accreditation program upon patient care throughout this Commonwealth.

(d) If the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation has not begun an accreditation program by June 30, 1985, the secretary shall establish a trauma center accreditation program in accordance with this section.

Section 4. Section 11(b) of the act, amended June 30, 1983 (P.L.28, No.16), is amended and a subsection is added to read:

Section 11. Legislative Intent; Legislative Oversight.—* * *

(b) This act shall expire if not reenacted by the General Assembly prior to the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, [1984] 1985.

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(d) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Secretary of Health, in developing a stratified system of trauma care, shall involve local citizens in the decisionmaking process.

Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 18th day of December, A. D. 1984.

DICK THORNBURGH