

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
90th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 957

By: Senator S. Flowers

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS STROKE CENTER  
DESIGNATION ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS STROKE CENTER  
DESIGNATION ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 9, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 15 – Arkansas Stroke Center Designation Act

20-9-1501. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Stroke Center Designation Act".

20-9-1502. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Due to high stroke mortality rates in Arkansas, a coordinated system of care for stroke is needed throughout the State of Arkansas with the goal of identifying and treating stroke victims in a timely manner, improving outcomes for stroke patients, reducing the number of deaths due to stroke, and improving the quality of life for stroke survivors; and

(2) A public health need exists for acute care hospitals in the State of Arkansas to be designated as comprehensive stroke centers, primary stroke centers, and acute stroke-ready centers to ensure the rapid triage,



diagnostic evaluation, and treatment of patients suffering a stroke.

20-9-1503. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter, "hospital" means a healthcare facility licensed as a hospital by the Division of Health Facilities Services of the Department of Health under § 20-9-213.

20-9-1504. Comprehensive stroke center.

(a)(1) Upon application by a hospital, the Department of Health shall designate the hospital as a comprehensive stroke center if the hospital is certified as a comprehensive stroke center by the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission, or any other nationally recognized certifying body designated by the department by rule.

(2) Additional criteria are not be required for establishing or maintaining designation.

(b) The designation shall last as long as the hospital remains certified.

(c) The department may remove a hospital's designation as a comprehensive stroke center if:

(1) The hospital requests removal of the designation; or

(2) The department determines that the certificate recognizing the hospital as a comprehensive stroke center has been suspended or revoked.

20-9-1505. Primary stroke center.

(a)(1) Upon application by a hospital, the Department of Health shall designate the hospital as a primary stroke center if the hospital is certified as a primary stroke center by the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission, or any other nationally recognized certifying body designated by the department by rule.

(2) Additional criteria are not be required for establishing or maintaining designation.

(b) The designation shall last as long as the hospital remains certified.

(c) The department may remove a hospital's designation as a primary stroke center if:

(1) The hospital requests removal of the designation; or

(2) The department determines that the certificate recognizing the hospital as a primary stroke center has been suspended or revoked.

20-9-1506. Acute stroke-ready hospital.

(a)(1) Upon application by a hospital, the Department of Health shall designate the hospital as an acute stroke-ready hospital if the hospital is certified as an acute stroke-ready hospital by the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association, The Joint Commission, or any other nationally recognized certifying body designated by the department by rule.

(2) Additional criteria are not be required for establishing or maintaining designation.

(b) The designation shall last as long as the hospital remains certified.

(c) The department may remove a hospital's designation as an acute stroke-ready hospital if:

(1) The hospital requests removal of the designation; or

(2) The department determines that the certificate recognizing the hospital as an acute stroke-ready hospital has been suspended or revoked.

20-9-1507. List of stroke centers.

On or before July 1 of each year, the Department of Health shall:

(1) Prepare a list of designated acute stroke-ready hospitals, primary stroke centers, and comprehensive stroke centers in the state; and

(2) Post the list of designated acute stroke-ready hospitals, primary stroke centers, and comprehensive stroke centers on the website of the Department of Health.

20-9-1508. Guidelines.

(a)(1) The Department of Health, in coordination with independent licensed emergency medical services providers, shall establish and implement prehospital care guidelines that include without limitation assessment, treatment, and transport of stroke patients by licensed emergency medical services providers.

(2) The guidelines shall include plans for triage and transport of acute stroke patients to the closest comprehensive stroke center or primary stroke center or, when appropriate, to an acute stroke-ready

hospital, within a specified time frame from the onset of symptoms.

(b) The State Board of Health shall promulgate rules to ensure that licensed emergency medical services providers receive regular training on the assessment and treatment of stroke patients if funding is available.

20-9-1509. Patient treatment.

(a) This subchapter shall be interpreted to recognize that all patients should be treated individually based on each patient's needs and circumstances.

(b) This subchapter does not:

(1) Establish a standard of care or a medical practice guideline; or

(2) Restrict the authority of a hospital to provide services for which it has been licensed.