

HB 1609 -- Emergency Triage Guidelines for Care

Sponsor: Cooper (155)

This bill establishes emergency triage guidelines for care and the Emergency Triage Guidelines for Care Task Force within the Department of Health and Senior Services. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Specifies the meaning of "emergency triage guidelines for care";
- (2) Requires the department to develop guidelines for health care providers to implement and follow in their emergency triage guidelines for care plans;
- (3) Requires that the department's emergency guidelines include tiers that recognize the severity of health threats during emergencies;
- (4) Grants civil immunity to a health care provider practicing in a declared state of emergency. This immunity does not include acts of negligence or willful omissions;
- (5) Requires the task force to recommend emergency triage guidelines for care and develop recommendations regarding the waiver or suspension of any statutory restriction or administrative rule regarding health care delivery during a declared state of emergency;
- (6) Requires the Governor to obtain advice and guidance from the task force when waiving or suspending statutory restrictions or administrative rules regarding health care delivery in a declared state of emergency;
- (7) Specifies principles for the task force to use to develop guidelines;
- (8) Requires the department director to determine the membership of the task force; and
- (9) Allows members of the General Assembly to participate in the task force as ex officio members.

The provisions regarding the task force will expire August 30, 2009.

The bill contains an emergency clause.