

HB 541 -- HOSPITAL DESIGNATIONS

SPONSOR: Cook

Currently, the Department of Health and Senior Services is required to conduct, at least once every three years, a site review of every trauma, STEMI, and stroke center, with certain exceptions. This bill specifies that if a hospital identifies and corrects a deficiency before a site review in order to be designated as a trauma, STEMI, or stroke center, the Department must not cite that deficiency as requiring a plan of correction or use that deficiency as a reason to deny the hospital's requested designation.

The bill establishes a provision that requires a hospital to be designated as a level I STEMI center if such hospital has been certified as a comprehensive cardiac center or comprehensive heart attack center by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

Additionally, the bill specifies that the Department can not specify the number of physicians necessary to satisfy coverage or backup requirements for centers with level II or lower stroke or STEMI designations. Any coverage of backup capacity will be deemed to be satisfied through contingency plans, as specified in the bill, and physicians are permitted to satisfy coverage requirements for multiple designations.

This bill is similar to HB 2220 (2024).