

# ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 792**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 10, 2012

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 792.

As amended by the committee, this bill directs hospitals to establish protocols for dispatch and patient transport by specialty care transportation units (SCTUs) used for inter-facility transfers.

Specifically, the bill requires that a licensed general hospital establish protocols to ensure immediate dispatch, timely patient pick-up from the sending hospital, and transport to the receiving hospital by a SCTU used for patient inter-facility transfers, as well as contingency SCTU transport protocols in the event that the hospital's designated SCTU is not immediately available for dispatch.

The Department of Health and Senior Services is to ensure, by means of its periodic inspection of a hospital and such other measures as it deems appropriate, that the hospital has established and implemented the required protocols.

A hospital that fails to comply with the provisions of the bill is liable to a penalty in accordance with the provisions of sections 13 and 14 of P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-13 and C.26:2H-14).

The bill takes effect on the first day of the fourth month next following the date of enactment, but authorizes the commissioner to take prior administrative action as necessary for its implementation.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2012-2013 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments to the bill:

- require the Department of Health and Senior Services to ensure, by means of its periodic inspection of a hospital and such other measures as it deems appropriate, that the hospital has established and implemented the required protocols;
- subject a hospital that fails to comply with the provisions of the bill to a penalty in accordance with the provisions of sections 13 and 14 of P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-13 and C.26:2H-14);

- qualify the requirement that the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services adopt rules and regulations, to be only as necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill; and
- change the effective date of the bill from the 90th day after enactment to the first day of the fourth month next following the date of enactment.