

Senate Bill 565

By: Senators Staton of the 18th, Unterman of the 45th, Schaefer of the 50th, Chance of the 16th, Goggans of the 7th and others

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

1 To amend Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 emergency medical services, so as to establish the Georgia Trauma Care Network  
3 Commission; to provide for its composition, membership, duties, and responsibilities; to  
4 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to emergency  
8 medical services, is amended by adding a new Article 5 to read as follows:

9 "ARTICLE 5

10 31-11-101.

11 (a) There is created the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission which is assigned to  
12 the Department of Human Resources for administrative purposes only, as prescribed in  
13 Code Section 50-4-3. The commission shall consist of seven members who shall be  
14 appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall include among the appointees a  
15 representative of a hospital that has a Level I trauma center, a representative of a hospital  
16 that has a pediatric trauma center, a representative of a hospital that has a Level I burn  
17 trauma center, a representative of a hospital that has a Level II or Level III trauma center,  
18 and a physician who is actively involved in providing emergency trauma care. In making  
19 the initial appointments, the Governor shall appoint four members for a term of three years  
20 and three members for a term of two years. Thereafter, persons appointed to succeed the  
21 initial members shall serve three-year terms of office. The Governor shall appoint one of  
22 the members to serve as the chairperson of the commission.

1 (b) The commission shall meet upon the call of the chairperson or upon the request of  
2 three members. The commission shall organize itself as it deems appropriate and may elect  
3 additional officers from among its members.

4 (c) Any vacancy on the commission shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment  
5 by the Governor.

6 (d) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but shall receive the  
7 same expense allowance per day as that received by a member of the General Assembly  
8 for each day such member of the commission is in attendance at a meeting of such  
9 commission, plus either reimbursement for actual transportation costs while traveling by  
10 public carrier or the same mileage allowance for use of a personal car in connection with  
11 such attendance as members of the General Assembly receive. Such expense and travel  
12 allowance shall be paid in lieu of any per diem, allowance, or other remuneration now  
13 received by any such member for such attendance.

14 31-11-102.

15 The Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission shall have the following duties and  
16 responsibilities:

17 (1) To apply for, receive, and administer state funds appropriated to the commission and  
18 federal funds and grants, private grants and donations, and other funds and donations;

19 (2) To coordinate its activities with the Department of Human Resources;

20 (3) To employ and manage staff and consultants in order to fulfill its duties and  
21 responsibilities under this article;

22 (4) To establish, maintain, and administer a trauma center network to coordinate the best  
23 use of existing trauma facilities in the state and to direct patients to the best available  
24 facility for treatment of traumatic injury;

25 (5) To establish, maintain, and administer programs for assisting existing trauma centers  
26 in improving their ability to care for persons with traumatic injuries through grants,  
27 technical assistance, and other such assistance, including programs for trauma care  
28 facilities that desire to upgrade to the next higher level of trauma care;

29 (6) To establish, maintain, and administer programs for providing assistance to existing  
30 trauma care centers in covering the costs of unreimbursed health care;

31 (7) To coordinate, assist, establish, maintain, and administer programs designed to  
32 educate the citizens of this state on trauma prevention;

33 (8) To coordinate and assist in the collection of data to evaluate the provision of trauma  
34 care services in this state; and

35 (9) To study the provision of trauma care in this state to determine the best practices and  
36 methods of providing such care, to determine what changes are needed to improve the

1 provision of trauma care, and to report any proposed legislative changes to the General  
2 Assembly each year."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.