

House Bill 307

By: Representative Harbin of the 118th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 5 of Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission, so as to provide for burn centers
3 and burn patients as part of the trauma network; to revise definitions; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.

7 Article 5 of Chapter 11 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
8 Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission, is amended in Code Section 31-11-100, relating
9 to definitions, as follows:

10 "31-11-100.

11 As used in this article, the term:

12 (1) 'Burn center' means a facility that has been designated by the Department of
13 Community Health as a burn center and that admits at least 300 patients annually with
14 the burn specific principal diagnosis codes as published by the International
15 Classification of Diseases.

16 (2) 'Trauma burn patient' means a patient admitted to a burn center with a burn specific
17 principal diagnosis code as published by the International Classification of Diseases who
18 has at least one of the following injuries or complications based on criteria developed by
19 the American Burn Association:

20 (A) Partial-thickness burns over at least 10 percent of the total body surface area;

21 (B) Burns that involve the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints;

22 (C) Third-degree burns in any age group;

23 (D) Chemical burns;

24 (E) An inhalation injury;

25 (F) A burn injury and preexisting medical disorder that could complicate management,
26 prolong recovery, or affect mortality;

27 (G) Burns and concomitant trauma, such as fractures, in which the burn injury poses
 28 the greatest risk of morbidity or mortality; or

29 (H) Burn injury patients who require special social, emotional, or rehabilitative
 30 intervention.

31 ~~(1)~~(3) 'Trauma center' means a facility designated by the Department of Community
 32 Health as a Level I, II, III, or IV trauma center or a burn center.

33 ~~(2)~~(4) 'Trauma patient' means a patient who is on the State Trauma Registry or the
 34 National Trauma Registry of the American College of Surgeons or who is a trauma burn
 35 patient.

36 ~~(3)~~(5) 'Trauma service codes' means the ~~ICDA-9-CM~~ International Classification of
 37 Diseases discharge codes designated as trauma service codes by the American College
 38 of Surgeons, Committee on Trauma.

39 ~~(4)~~(6) 'Uncompensated' means care provided by a ~~designated~~ trauma center, emergency
 40 medical services provider, or physician to a trauma patient as defined by the Georgia
 41 Trauma Care Network Commission who:

42 (A) Has no medical insurance, including federal Medicare Part B coverage;

43 (B) Is not eligible for medical assistance coverage;

44 (C) Has no medical coverage for trauma care through workers' compensation,
 45 automobile insurance, or any other third party, including any settlement or judgment
 46 resulting from such coverage; and

47 (D) Has not paid for the trauma care provided by the trauma provider after documented
 48 attempts by the trauma care services provider to collect payment."

49 **SECTION 2.**

50 Said article is further amended by revising paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) Code Section
 51 31-11-102, relating to duties and responsibilities of the Georgia Trauma Care Network
 52 Commission, as follows:

53 "(2) For the first two fiscal years in which funds are appropriated to the commission for
 54 distribution, to distribute such funds in the following areas with the priority for
 55 distribution to be set by majority vote of the commission:

56 (A) Physician uncompensated trauma care services provided in ~~designated~~ trauma
 57 centers;

58 (B) Emergency medical service uncompensated trauma care services provided to
 59 patients transported to ~~designated~~ trauma centers;

60 (C) Uncompensated trauma care services of ~~designated~~ trauma centers;

61 (D) Trauma care readiness costs for designated or certified trauma care service
 62 providers; and

63 (E) Trauma care service start-up costs for providers seeking a trauma care designation
64 or certification.

65 The commission shall adopt a formula that prioritizes the distribution of state
66 appropriated funds that may be implemented during the third state fiscal year in which
67 funds are appropriated to the commission for distribution. Such formula shall be
68 evaluated and modified, if needed, every two years thereafter;

69 (3) To develop, implement, administer, and maintain a system to compensate ~~designated~~
70 trauma centers for a portion of their cost of readiness through a semiannual distribution
71 from the Georgia Trauma Trust Fund in a standardized amount determined by the
72 commission. The standardized amounts shall be determined according to ~~designation its~~
73 designated level or status as a burn center and shall be capped at that specific amount.
74 Initially, such standardized amount shall be based upon a three-year average of annual
75 trauma cases, annual amount of uncompensated trauma care services administered, and
76 a three-year annual average cost of readiness. Such criteria may be changed by a
77 majority vote of the commission. Total annual distributions for trauma center and
78 emergency medical service readiness shall be capped at an amount set by the
79 commission. However, the standards developed by the commission for readiness shall
80 include, but are not limited to, the following:

81 (A) Criteria assuring the trauma fund is a payor of last resort;

82 (B) Criteria assuring that all other resources must be exhausted before the trauma funds
83 are allocated; and

84 (C) Criteria assuring that trauma funds must be used to meet a verified need that assists
85 the trauma center to maintain a trauma center designation;

86 (4) To develop, implement, administer, and maintain a system to provide additional
87 ~~designated~~ trauma center compensation to cover trauma center costs not associated with
88 readiness based upon an application and review based process. These distributions shall
89 be capped and limited to semiannual appropriations received by the commission.
90 ~~Designated trauma~~ Trauma centers shall submit an application for trauma funds
91 reimbursement semiannually. The application process developed by the commission for
92 such costs shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

93 (A) Criteria assuring that the trauma fund is a payor of last resort;

94 (B) Criteria assuring that trauma funds shall be used for reimbursement for services
95 provided to designated trauma patients;

96 (C) Criteria assuring that trauma funds shall be used for reimbursement for trauma
97 service codes;

98 (D) Criteria assuring that trauma funds used for reimbursement for trauma care costs
99 shall be on a fee schedule or grant basis; provided, however, that no reimbursement

100 shall exceed the average rate reimbursed for similar services under the State Health
101 Benefit Plan; and
102 (E) Criteria that require the trauma center to submit a semiannual report documenting
103 and verifying the use of such funds;"

104 **SECTION 3.**

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