

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
89R25368 SRA-D

C.S.S.B. 672
By: Hughes
Health & Human Services
4/25/2025
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) does not know under what circumstances hospitals divert patients and ambulances from their emergency departments. S.B. 672 requires hospitals to submit their emergency department diversion plans to their licensing authority. A diversion plan is defined as a hospital's process for temporarily routing patients to other facilities when the hospital's capacity is significantly diminished, potentially leading to delayed care and worse health outcomes.

The bill applies to hospitals licensed under Chapter 241 with emergency departments or regularly providing emergency services. Hospitals must submit a summary of their diversion plans that address potential diversions due to cyber attacks or power outages. If the diversion plan is changed, an updated summary must be submitted within 30 days of the changes being approved. Hospitals are not bound to follow their submitted diversion plan.

The summaries submitted to HHSC are confidential and exempt from public disclosure under Chapter 552 of the Government Code.

The committee substitute changes the words "diversion plans" to "emergency operations plans" per stakeholder request.

C.S.S.B. 672 amends current law relating to a requirement that certain hospitals submit a summary of parts of their emergency operations plans to the Health and Human Services Commission.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter B, Chapter 311, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 311.025, as follows:

Sec. 311.025. SUMMARY OF CERTAIN PARTS OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DIVERSION PLAN. (a) Defines "commission," "emergency operations plan," and "hospital."

(b) Provides that this section applies only to a hospital that has an emergency department or otherwise regularly provides emergency services.

(c) Requires a hospital to which this section applies to submit to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) a written summary of the part of the hospital's emergency operations plan that addresses diversions from the hospital's emergency department in the event that the hospital experiences a cyber attack or an electrical power outage.

(d) Requires that a hospital, if the hospital to which this section applies makes changes to the part of the plan described by Subsection (c), to update the previously submitted summary and submit the updated summary to HHSC not later than the 30th day after the date the changes to the plan are adopted by the hospital's governing body or otherwise approved by the appropriate hospital administrator.

(e) Provides that a summary submitted to HHSC under this section is confidential and excepted from public disclosure under Chapter 552 (Public Information), Government Code.

SECTION 2. Requires that a hospital to which Section 311.025, Health and Safety Code, applies, not later than December 1, 2025, comply with the requirements of that section, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2025.