



# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 12

### SENATE BILL NO. 317

By Reeves, Jackson, Robinson, Swann, Yarbro

Substituted for: House Bill No. 199

By Vaughan, Gant, White, Carter, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 7, Part 1 and Title 68, relative to the practice of nursing with respect to emergency medical conditions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-7-103, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(c)(1) This section does not preclude a qualified registered nurse from determining whether a patient presenting to a hospital has an emergency medical condition if the determination is pursuant to:

(A) A cooperative working relationship with a physician; and

(B) Protocols jointly developed by the hospital's medical and nursing leadership and adopted by the hospital's medical staff and governing body.

(2) The protocols described in subdivision (c)(1) must include a requirement that the qualified registered nurse obtain the concurrence of a physician when making a determination authorized under subdivision (c)(1).

(3) As used in this subsection (c):

(A) "Emergency medical condition" means:

(i) A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in:

(a) Placing the health of the individual or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or the woman's unborn child, in serious jeopardy;

(b) Serious impairment to bodily functions; or

(c) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; and

(ii) With respect to a pregnant woman who is having contractions:

(a) That there is inadequate time to effect a safe transfer to another hospital before delivery; or

(b) That transfer may pose a threat to the health or safety of the woman or the woman's unborn child; and

(B) "Qualified registered nurse" means a registered nurse who has been approved by the hospital governing body, based on the recommendation of hospital nursing leadership, as possessing the skills and competency to

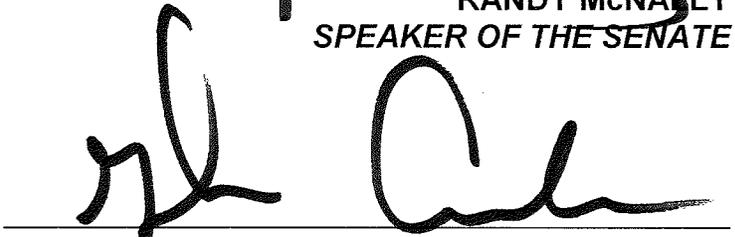
make a determination of the existence of a specified emergency medical condition of a patient presenting to a hospital.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: March 7, 2019

  
RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
GLEN CASADA, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019

  
BILL LEE, GOVERNOR