

No. 1992-146

AN ACT

HB 2293

Amending the act of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45), entitled "An act relating to the prevention and reduction of premature death and disability in this Commonwealth; providing for assistance, coordination and support of the development and maintenance of a comprehensive emergency medical services system and for qualifications, eligibility and certification of emergency medical services personnel and licensing ambulance services; imposing powers and duties on the Department of Health; and making repeals," further providing for the validity of certificates of accreditation.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 6(a) of the act of July 3, 1985 (P.L.164, No.45), known as the Emergency Medical Services Act, is amended to read:

Section 6. Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation.

(a) Trauma center accreditation.—The Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation shall develop a private voluntary accreditation program to:

(1) Establish standards for the operation of trauma centers in this Commonwealth, adopting, at a minimum, the current guidelines for trauma centers as defined by the American College of Surgeons for Level I or Level II trauma centers. For the purpose of reaccreditation, the standards shall require, as a minimum, that each accredited Level I trauma center shall establish that 600 severe and urgent injury cases have been treated per year and Level II trauma centers shall establish that 350 severe and urgent injury cases have been treated per year.

(2) Evaluate any hospital which makes application to the foundation to determine if the applicant hospital meets the standards as adopted by the foundation. Such evaluation shall include the conduct of hospital site visits by accreditation survey teams composed of independent, qualified persons selected by the foundation.

(3) Issue certificates of accreditation to those hospitals which meet the accreditation standards. Certificates of accreditation shall be valid for a period not to exceed [two] *three* years. Certificates of accreditation may be revoked by the foundation if it is determined that the trauma center no longer meets accreditation standards as set forth in this act.

(4) Establish an appeals mechanism to reconsider accreditation decisions.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 14th day of December, A. D. 1992.

ROBERT P. CASEY