First Regular Session Seventy-fifth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted on Second Reading in the Second House

LLS NO. 25-0066.01 Shelby Ross x4510

SENATE BILL 25-130

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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Senate Committees

Judiciary Appropriations

House Committees

Health & Human Services Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING PROVIDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL <u>SERVICES</u>, <u>AND</u>, <u>IN</u>
102 CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill requires an emergency department, including a labor and delivery department, to provide emergency medical services to a patient who presents to the emergency department.

For each person who presents to an emergency department for treatment, the bill requires the emergency department to input into a central log whether the person refused treatment or was denied treatment, HOUSE Amended 2nd Reading May 2, 2025

SENATE ord Reading Unamended April 23, 2025

SENATE Amended 2nd Reading April 22, 2025

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. <u>Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.</u>

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.

Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

or whether the person was admitted and treated, stabilized and transferred, or discharged.

The bill prohibits an emergency department from denying or discriminating in providing emergency medical services to a patient because of certain characteristics.

The bill requires an emergency department to implement a protocol to ensure a health-care provider is available at all times who is willing and able to provide emergency medical services; except that a health-care provider is not required to provide emergency medical services if the emergency medical services conflict with the health-care provider's sincerely held religious beliefs. The bill prohibits an emergency department from taking any adverse action against a health-care provider who provides or refuses to provide emergency medical services.

The bill prohibits an emergency department from inquiring about a patient's ability to pay for emergency medical services until after the services have been rendered.

The bill prohibits an emergency department from transferring or discharging a patient with an emergency medical condition unless certain conditions are met.

An emergency department does not violate the bill requirements if certain conditions are met.

The bill authorizes the attorney general to bring a civil action to seek injunctive relief or a civil penalty not to exceed \$50,000 against an emergency department or examining health-care provider who negligently violates the requirements of the bill. The bill creates a private right of action for a person who suffers personal injury by an emergency department.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

2 SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 25-3-132 as

3 <u>follows:</u>

1

9

4 <u>25-3-132. Emergency medical condition - emergency medical</u>

5 <u>services - transfer - discharge - nonliability - enforcement -</u>

6 <u>definitions.</u> (1) <u>Requirements.</u> A FACILITY SHALL PROVIDE EMERGENCY

7 <u>MEDICAL SERVICES TO A PERSON WHO PRESENTS TO THE FACILITY WHEN</u>

8 THE PERSON REQUESTS OR A REQUEST IS MADE ON THE PERSON'S BEHALF

FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES. IN THE ABSENCE OF A REQUEST, A

10 FACILITY SHALL PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO A PERSON IF

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1	A PRUDENT LAYPERSON WOULD BELIEVE, BASED ON THE PERSONS
2	APPEARANCE OR BEHAVIOR, THAT THE PERSON IS IN NEED OF EMERGENCY
3	MEDICAL SERVICES.
4	(2) Central log required. For each person who presents to
5	A FACILITY AND REQUESTS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OR A REQUEST
6	IS MADE ON THE PERSON'S BEHALF FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.
7	THE FACILITY SHALL INPUT INTO A CENTRAL LOG WHETHER THE PERSON
8	REFUSED TREATMENT, WAS DENIED TREATMENT, WHETHER NO TREATMENT
9	WAS REQUIRED, OR WHETHER THE PERSON WAS TRANSFERRED, ADMITTED
0	AND TREATED, STABILIZED AND TRANSFERRED, OR DISCHARGED.
1	(3) Nondiscrimination. A FACILITY IS A PLACE OF PUBLIC
12	ACCOMMODATION SUBJECT TO PART 6 OF ARTICLE 34 OF TITLE 24 AND
13	SHALL NOT DENY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OR DISCRIMINATE IN
14	PROVIDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO A PATIENT FOR A
15	DISCRIMINATORY OR UNLAWFUL REASON AS DESCRIBED IN PART 6 OF
16	ARTICLE 34 OF TITLE 24.
17	(4) Provider protections. (a) A FACILITY SHALL NOT PENALIZE
18	OR TAKE ANY ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST A HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER FOR
19	REFUSING TO TRANSFER A PATIENT WITH AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL
20	CONDITION THAT HAS NOT BEEN STABILIZED.
21	(b) This subsection (4) does not alter or limit the rights
22	AND PROTECTIONS AFFORDED TO A PERSON PURSUANT TO SECTION
23	<u>24-34-402 (1).</u>
24	(5) Financial inquiry. A FACILITY SHALL NOT DELAY PROVIDING
25	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO A PERSON IN ORDER TO INQUIRE ABOUT
26	THE PERSON'S ABILITY TO PAY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.
2.7	(6) Appropriate transfer. If A PATIENT HAS RECEIVED AN

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1	APPROPRIATE MEDICAL SCREENING EXAMINATION AS DESCRIBED IN
2	SUBSECTION (10)(c)(I)(A) OF THIS SECTION AND THE EXAMINING
3	HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER DETERMINES THAT AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL
4	CONDITION EXISTS AND THE CONDITION HAS NOT BEEN STABILIZED, THE
5	FACILITY SHALL NOT TRANSFER THE PATIENT UNLESS ALL OF THE
6	FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:
7	(a) THE PATIENT IS PROVIDED MEDICAL TREATMENT WITHIN THE
8	FACILITY'S CAPACITY THAT MINIMIZES THE RISKS TO THE PATIENT'S
9	HEALTH;
10	(b) The receiving facility has the space and qualified
11	PERSONNEL AVAILABLE FOR TREATING THE PATIENT AND HAS AGREED TO
12	ACCEPT TRANSFER OF THE PATIENT AND TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE
13	MEDICAL TREATMENT;
14	(c) THE TRANSFER IS EFFECTED THROUGH QUALIFIED PERSONNEL
15	AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING THE USE OF NECESSARY
16	AND MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE LIFE SUPPORT MEASURES DURING THE
17	TRANSFER;
18	(d) THE TRANSFERRING FACILITY SENDS ALL MEDICAL RECORDS,
19	OR COPIES OF THE MEDICAL RECORDS, RELATED TO THE PATIENT'S
20	EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION THAT THE PATIENT PRESENTED TO THE
21	FACILITY FOR, THAT ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF THE TRANSFER,
22	INCLUDING MEDICAL RECORDS, OR COPIES OF THE MEDICAL RECORDS,
23	RELATED TO OBSERVATIONS OF SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS; PRELIMINARY
24	DIAGNOSIS; TREATMENT PROVIDED TO THE PATIENT; TEST RESULTS; THE
25	INFORMED WRITTEN REQUEST OR CERTIFICATION PROVIDED PURSUANT TO
26	SUBSECTION (6)(e) OF THIS SECTION, OR A COPY OF THE REQUEST OR
27	CERTIFICATION; AND, IF RELEVANT, THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY

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1	ON-CALL PHYSICIAN WHO REFUSED OR FAILED TO APPEAR AT THE FACILITY
2	WITHIN A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO PROVIDE THE PATIENT WITH
3	NECESSARY STABILIZING TREATMENT;
4	
5	(e) (I) AFTER BEING INFORMED OF THE FACILITY'S OBLIGATIONS
6	PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND THE RISK OF TRANSFER, THE PATIENT OR
7	THE PATIENT'S REPRESENTATIVE REQUESTS THE TRANSFER IN WRITING;
8	(II) A PHYSICIAN HAS SIGNED A CERTIFICATION THAT INCLUDES A
9	SUMMARY OF THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF TRANSFERRING THE PATIENT
10	AND A STATEMENT THAT, BASED UPON THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT
11	THE TIME OF THE TRANSFER, THE MEDICAL BENEFITS REASONABLY
12	EXPECTED FROM THE PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE MEDICAL TREATMENT AT
13	ANOTHER FACILITY OUTWEIGH THE INCREASED RISKS TO THE PATIENT
14	FROM BEING TRANSFERRED; OR
15	(III) IF A PHYSICIAN IS NOT PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN THE FACILITY
16	AT THE TIME A PATIENT IS TRANSFERRED, THE EXAMINING HEALTH-CARE
17	PROVIDER HAS SIGNED A CERTIFICATION THAT INCLUDES THE
18	INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6)(e)(II) OF THIS SECTION AND
19	THE PHYSICIAN, AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE EXAMINING HEALTH-CARE
20	PROVIDER, AGREES WITH THE CERTIFICATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY
21	COUNTERSIGNS THE CERTIFICATION.
22	(7) Appropriate discharge. (a) If a patient has received an
23	APPROPRIATE MEDICAL SCREENING EXAMINATION AS DESCRIBED IN
24	SUBSECTION (10)(c)(I)(A) OF THIS SECTION AND THE EXAMINING
25	HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER DETERMINES THAT AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL
26	CONDITION EXISTS, THE FACILITY SHALL NOT DISCHARGE THE PATIENT
27	UNLESS THE PATIENT'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION HAS BEEN

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1	STABILIZED.
2	(b) If a patient has not been stabilized, discharging the
3	PATIENT IS ONLY PERMITTED IF:
4	(I) AFTER BEING INFORMED OF THE FACILITY'S OBLIGATIONS
5	PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND THE RISK OF DISCHARGE, THE PATIENT OR
6	THE PATIENT'S REPRESENTATIVE REQUESTS A DISCHARGE IN WRITING; OR
7	(II) THE FACILITY OFFERS THE PATIENT FURTHER MEDICAL
8	EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT AND INFORMS THE PATIENT OR THE
9	PATIENT'S REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF THE
10	EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT BUT THE PATIENT OR THE PATIENT'S
11	REPRESENTATIVE DOES NOT CONSENT TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND
12	TREATMENT. THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL RECORD MUST CONTAIN A
13	DESCRIPTION OF THE EXAMINATION AND, IF APPLICABLE, THE TREATMENT,
14	AND A STATEMENT THAT THE PATIENT OR THE PATIENT'S REPRESENTATIVE
15	REFUSED. THE FACILITY SHALL TAKE ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO SECURE
16	THE PATIENT'S WRITTEN INFORMED REFUSAL, WHICH MUST INDICATE THE
17	PATIENT HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF THE
18	EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT, IF APPLICABLE.
19	(8) Nonliability. A FACILITY OR HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER DOES
20	NOT VIOLATE THIS SECTION IF:
21	(a) The patient is provided an appropriate medical
22	SCREENING EXAMINATION AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (10)(c)(I)(A) OF
23	THIS SECTION BY A HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER AND THE EXAMINING
24	HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER DETERMINES THAT NO EMERGENCY MEDICAL
25	CONDITION EXISTS AND RECORDS THE DETERMINATION IN THE PATIENT'S
26	MEDICAL RECORD;
27	(b) The patient is provided an appropriate medical

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1	SCREENING EXAMINATION AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (10)(c)(1)(A) OF
2	THIS SECTION BY A HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER AND THE EXAMINING
3	HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER DETERMINES THAT AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL
4	CONDITION EXISTS AND THE PATIENT IS APPROPRIATELY TRANSFERRED OR
5	DISCHARGED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OR (7) OF THIS SECTION; OR
6	(c) The patient is provided an appropriate medical
7	SCREENING EXAMINATION AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (10)(c)(I)(A) OF
8	THIS SECTION BY A HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER AND THE EXAMINING
9	HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER DETERMINES THAT AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL
10	CONDITION EXISTS AND THE PATIENT IS ADMITTED IN GOOD FAITH TO THE
11	FACILITY AS AN INPATIENT FOR FURTHER STABILIZING TREATMENT.
12	(9) Investigation and penalty. (a) THE DEPARTMENT MAY
13	INVESTIGATE A FACILITY THAT NEGLIGENTLY VIOLATES THIS SECTION
14	PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-103 (1)(a).
15	(b) (I) A PHYSICIAN WHO NEGLIGENTLY VIOLATES THIS SECTION
16	ENGAGES IN UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND IS SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINE
17	PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-240-121.
18	(II) This subsection (9)(b) applies to a physician who:
19	(A) SIGNS A CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(f)(II)
20	OF THIS SECTION THAT STATES THE MEDICAL BENEFITS REASONABLY
21	EXPECTED FROM APPROPRIATE MEDICAL TREATMENT AT ANOTHER
22	FACILITY OUTWEIGH THE INCREASED RISKS TO THE PATIENT FROM BEING
23	TRANSFERRED IF THE PHYSICIAN KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THE
24	BENEFITS DID NOT OUTWEIGH THE RISKS;
25	(B) MISREPRESENTS A PATIENT'S CONDITION OR OTHER
26	INFORMATION, INCLUDING A FACILITY'S OBLIGATIONS PURSUANT TO THIS
27	SECTION; OR

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1	(C) IS THE ON-CALL PHYSICIAN AND FAILS OR REFUSES TO PRESENT
2	TO THE FACILITY WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME PURSUANT TO
3	SUBSECTION (10)(c)(I)(B) OF THIS SECTION AFTER BEING CONTACTED.
4	(c) If a civil monetary penalty is imposed pursuant to
5	SECTION 25-1.5-103 OR 12-240-121, THE MAXIMUM CIVIL MONETARY
6	PENALTY AMOUNT MUST BE REDUCED BY ANY CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY
7	IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT
8	AND ACTIVE LABOR ACT", 42 U.S.C. 1395dd (d) FOR THE SAME
9	<u>VIOLATION.</u>
10	(10) Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context
11	OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
12	(a) "ABORTION" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION
13	<u>25-6-402.</u>
14	(b) (I) "EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION" MEANS:
15	(A) A MEDICAL CONDITION MANIFESTING ITSELF BY ACUTE SIGNS
16	AND SYMPTOMS OF SUFFICIENT SEVERITY, INCLUDING SEVERE PAIN, SUCH
17	THAT THE ABSENCE OF IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION COULD
18	REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN PLACING THE HEALTH OF THE
19	PERSON IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY, SERIOUS IMPAIRMENT OF BODILY
20	FUNCTIONS, OR SERIOUS DYSFUNCTION OF ANY BODILY ORGAN OR PART;
21	<u>OR</u>
22	(B) WITH RESPECT TO A PREGNANT PERSON WHO IS HAVING
23	CONTRACTIONS, THERE IS INADEQUATE TIME TO EFFECTUATE A SAFE
24	TRANSFER TO ANOTHER FACILITY BEFORE DELIVERY, OR THAT
25	TRANSFERRING THE PATIENT MAY POSE A THREAT TO THE HEALTH OR
26	SAFETY OF THE PATIENT.
2.7	(II) "EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION" INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT

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1	LIMITED TO, LABOR, ECTOPIC PREGNANCY, A COMPLICATION RESULTING
2	FROM PREGNANCY OR PREGNANCY LOSS, AND EMERGENT HYPERTENSIVE
3	DISORDERS WHEN THE ABSENCE OF IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION
4	COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN PLACING THE HEALTH OF
5	THE PERSON IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY, SERIOUS IMPAIRMENT TO BODILY
6	FUNCTIONS, OR SERIOUS DYSFUNCTION OF ANY BODILY ORGAN OR PART.
7	(c) (I) "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES" MEANS:
8	(A) AN APPROPRIATE MEDICAL SCREENING EXAMINATION WITHIN
9	THE CAPABILITY OF THE FACILITY, INCLUDING ANCILLARY SERVICES
10	ROUTINELY AVAILABLE TO THE FACILITY, TO DETERMINE IF AN
11	EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION EXISTS; AND
12	(B) WHEN THE EXAMINING HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER DETERMINES
13	THAT AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION EXISTS, THE MEDICAL
14	TREATMENT NECESSARY TO STABILIZE THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL
15	CONDITION THAT IS WITHIN THE CAPABILITY OF THE FACILITY. IF THE
16	PATIENT'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION REQUIRES THE SERVICES OF
17	AN ON-CALL PHYSICIAN, THE EXAMINING HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER SHALL
18	ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE ON-CALL PHYSICIAN, IF APPLICABLE.
19	(II) "EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES" INCLUDES PROVIDING AN
20	ABORTION OR STERILIZATION PROCEDURES WHEN A PATIENT HAS AN
21	EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION AND AN ABORTION OR STERILIZATION
22	PROCEDURES ARE NECESSARY TO STABILIZE THE PATIENT AND ARE WITHIN
23	THE CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY OF THE FACILITY.
24	(d) "FACILITY" MEANS AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF A
25	HOSPITAL LICENSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-3-101; A FREESTANDING
26	EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 25-1.5-114; OR ANY
27	OTHER LICENSED HEALTH-CARE FACILITY, OR AREA OF A HOSPITAL OR

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1	HEALTH-CARE FACILITY, THAT HOLDS ITSELF OUT TO THE PUBLIC AS
2	PROVIDING EMERGENCY CARE.
3	(e) "LABOR" MEANS THE PROCESS OF CHILDBIRTH BEGINNING WITH
4	THE LATENT OR EARLY PHASE OF LABOR AND CONTINUING THROUGH THE
5	DELIVERY OF THE PLACENTA. A PERSON EXPERIENCING CONTRACTIONS IS
6	IN LABOR UNLESS A PHYSICIAN, CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE, OR OTHER
7	QUALIFIED MEDICAL PERSONNEL, ACTING WITHIN THE PERSON'S SCOPE OF
8	PRACTICE AS DEFINED IN THE FACILITY'S MEDICAL STAFF BYLAWS AND
9	STATE LAW, CERTIFIES AFTER A REASONABLE TIME OF OBSERVATION THAT
10	THE PERSON IS IN FALSE LABOR.
11	(f) "STABILIZE" MEANS TO PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT THAT
12	MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE, WITHIN REASONABLE MEDICAL
13	PROBABILITY, THAT NO MATERIAL DETERIORATION OF THE PATIENT'S
14	CONDITION, SERIOUS IMPAIRMENT OF BODILY FUNCTIONS OR DYSFUNCTION
15	OF ANY BODILY ORGAN OR PART, OR A THREAT TO THE PATIENT'S LIFE IS
16	LIKELY TO RESULT FROM OR OCCUR DURING THE TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE
17	OF THE PATIENT.
18	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-240-121, add
19	(1)(jj) as follows:
20	12-240-121. Unprofessional conduct - definitions.
21	(1) "Unprofessional conduct" as used in this article 240 means:
22	(jj) NEGLIGENTLY VIOLATING SECTION 25-3-132.
23	SECTION 3. Appropriation. (1) For the 2025-26 state fiscal
24	year, \$82,768 is appropriated to the department of public health and
25	environment for use by the health facilities and emergency medical
26	services division. This appropriation is from the health facilities general
27	licensure cash fund created in section 25-3-103.1 (1), C.R.S. To

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1	implement this act, the division may use this appropriation as follows:
2	(a) \$19,796 for administration and operations, which amount is
3	based on an assumption that the division will require an additional 0.2
4	FTE; and
5	(b) \$62,972 for the health facility survey, which amount is based
6	on an assumption that the division will require an additional 0.5 FTE.
7	SECTION 4. Severability. If any provision of this act or the
8	application of this act to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
9	invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the act that
10	can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to
11	this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.
12	SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly finds,
13	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
14	preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
15	the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
16	<u>institutions.</u>

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