

HB 274 -- TRAUMA CENTERS

SPONSOR: Hannegan

If a hospital is part of a network of hospitals and is the only hospital designated as a level II trauma center in either Jackson, St. Charles, or St. Louis county, the hospital cannot terminate the trauma services that allow it to maintain a designation as a level II trauma center without approval from the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Governor.

Before terminating its trauma centers, the hospital must submit an application for the Department to consider whether the hospital network has financial resources to support the continuation of the trauma services and how the termination of the trauma services would impact the health and safety of the county residents, including an impact on patient transportation times.

The Department must hold a public hearing and seek input from the general public before making a determination on the application. The Department must make a recommendation to the governor on whether to approve the application. The governor must also make a determination on whether to approve the application.

The department can suspend or revoke the license of a hospital that terminates its trauma services without submitting an application. The hospital network may also be charged a fine of \$1,000 per day that trauma services are not offered without submitting an application.