

A bill for an act
relating to health; modifying transport criteria for ambulance service in the state
trauma system; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 144.604.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 144.604, is amended to read:

144.604 TRAUMA TRIAGE AND TRANSPORTATION.

Subdivision 1. **Transport requirement.** Unless the Emergency Medical Services
Regulatory Board or the ambulance service medical director under section 144E.265 has
approved a licensed ambulance service's deviation from the guidelines under section
144E.101, subdivision 14, the ambulance service must transport major trauma patients
from the scene to the highest state-designated trauma hospital within 30 minutes' transport
time.

Subd. 2. **Ground ambulance exceptions.** Notwithstanding subdivision 1, ground
ambulances must comply with the following:

(1) patients with compromised airways must be transported immediately to the
nearest ~~designated trauma~~ hospital; and

(2) level II trauma hospitals capable of providing definitive trauma care must not
be bypassed to reach a level I trauma hospital, unless outlined in the licensed ambulance
service's standing orders under section 144E.001, subdivision 13, and approved by the
ambulance service's medical director.

Subd. 3. **Undesignated hospitals.** No major trauma patient shall be transported to
a hospital not participating in the statewide trauma system unless no designated trauma
hospital is available ~~within 30 minutes' transport time.~~