

**Senate Bill No. 311**

(By Senators Foster, Beach, Palumbo, Unger, Wells, McCabe and  
Stollings)

[Introduced January 27, 2011; referred to the Committee on Health  
and Human Resources.]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by  
adding thereto a new section, designated §16-5B-18, relating  
to the designation of hospitals as primary stroke centers.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended  
by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-5B-18, to read as  
follows:

**ARTICLE 5B. HOSPITALS AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.**

**§16-5B-18. The Primary Stroke Center Hospital Designation Act.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided, for purposes of this  
section:

(1) "Acute care hospital" means a licensed facility providing  
inpatient and outpatient medical or surgical services to an  
individual that seeks care and treatment, regardless of the

1 individual's ability to pay for services, on an immediate and  
2 emergent basis through an established emergency department and a  
3 continuous treatment basis on its premises for more than twenty-  
4 four hours; and

5 (2) "Primary stroke center certification" means certification  
6 for acute care hospitals issued by the Joint Commission on  
7 Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) or another  
8 Department of Health and acute Resources approved, nationally  
9 recognized organization that provides disease specific  
10 certification for stroke care that:

11 (A) Complies with census-based national standards and safety  
12 goals;

13 (B) Effectively uses evidence-based clinical practice  
14 guidelines to manage and optimize care; and

15 (C) Uses an organized approach to measure performance.

16 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human  
17 Resources shall designate as a primary stroke center any acute care  
18 hospital which has received a primary stroke center certification.

19 (c) The secretary shall suspend or revoke an acute care  
20 hospital's designation as a primary stroke center if certification  
21 is withdrawn by JCAHO or another approved certifying organization.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to designate certain  
hospitals as primary care centers.

This section is new; therefore, strike-throughs and

underscoring have been omitted.