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**HOUSE BILL NO. 910**

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 12, 2022

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 32.1 a section numbered 32.1-137.09, relating to hospital emergency department severity code data reporting.*

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Patron—Orrock

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Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 32.1 a section numbered 32.1-137.09, as follows:**

**§ 32.1-137.09. Hospital emergency department severity code data reporting.**

A. Every hospital in the Commonwealth that includes an emergency department shall report monthly to the Department, for the preceding month, (i) the total number of visits to the hospital's emergency department and (ii) the total number of visits to the hospital's emergency department by severity code.

B. The Department shall (i) determine the average number of hospital emergency department visits for each severity code statewide and by region for each month, (ii) identify hospitals that report a number of hospital emergency department visits for the highest severity code that is greater than the regional average for such severity code for each month, and (iii) work with such hospitals to determine why the hospital is reporting a number of emergency department visits coded at the highest severity code that exceed the regional average. If the Department determines that a hospital is improperly coding the severity code for emergency department visits, the Department shall work with the hospital to develop strategies for ensuring accurate coding of emergency department visits by severity.

C. The Department shall develop guidelines for the use of severity codes in hospital emergency departments to facilitate accurate coding of hospital emergency department visits by severity.

D. The Department may enter into a contract or agreement with the nonprofit organization with which the Department has entered into a contract or agreement pursuant to § 32.1-276.4 for the compilation, storage, analysis, and evaluation of data required to be submitted pursuant to this section.

INTRODUCED

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