



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Raised Bill No. 539

LCO No. 2217

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

An Act Concerning Linguistic Access In Acute Care Hospitals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 (NEW) Each acute care hospital in this state shall:
- 2 (1) Develop and annually review a policy on the provision of
- 3 interpreter services to non-English-speaking patients;
- 4 (2) Ensure, to the extent possible, the availability of interpreter
- 5 services to patients whose primary language is spoken by a group
- 6 comprising not less than five per cent of the population residing in the
- 7 geographic area served by the hospital;
- 8 (3) Prepare and maintain a list of qualified interpreters;
- 9 (4) Notify hospital staff of the requirement to provide interpreters to
- 10 non-English-speaking patients;
- 11 (5) Post multilingual notices of the availability of interpreters to
- 12 non-English-speaking patients;
- 13 (6) Review standardized forms to determine the need for translation

14 for use by non-English-speaking patients;

15 (7) Consider providing hospital staff with picture and phrase sheets
16 for communication with non-English-speaking patients; and

17 (8) Consider establishing liaisons to non-English-speaking
18 communities in the geographic area served by the hospital.

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure linguistic access to non-English-speaking patients in acute care hospitals.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]