



**Substitute House Bill No. 5169**

**Public Act No. 05-80**

**AN ACT CONCERNING QUALITY OF CARE IN CHRONIC DISEASE HOSPITALS.**

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

Section 1. Section 19a-253 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

[The Department of Public Health shall admit to chronic disease hospitals only patients with chronic illness and shall give preference to patients receiving public assistance from the state or any political subdivision thereof.] On and after October 1, 2005, no patient shall be admitted to a chronic disease hospital, unless the medical director of the hospital determines that the hospital and its medical staff are capable of providing adequate care and treatment to the patient, consistent with the hospital's by-laws. In making such determination, the medical director shall have access to the patient's medical records and may examine the patient.

Sec. 2. Section 19a-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

(a) The commissioner shall be responsible for planning state-wide programs for the control and treatment of lung diseases; the treatment of persons affected with other chronic illness, and the medical

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rehabilitation of chronically ill, physically disabled and handicapped persons. The commissioner [shall] may provide and maintain facilities and personnel for the diagnosis or detection and treatment of such diseases or enter into contracts for the provision of diagnostic and treatment programs for such diseases with persons or organizations capable in [his] the commissioner's judgment of providing such services.

(b) The commissioner shall be responsible for the administration of the department's programs as they relate to lung disease, other chronic illness and medical rehabilitation. [He shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the chronic disease hospitals of the Department of Public Health. As used in this chapter, "chronic illness" means conditions which require prolonged definitive hospital or restorative care as distinguished from diseases or conditions which may be properly cared for in convalescent, custodial or domiciliary facilities; "chronic disease hospital" means a hospital operated by the Department of Public Health; and "medical rehabilitation" means specific medical therapies directed toward the reduction of the effect of disability resulting from a chronic disease.]

Approved June 2, 2005