



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5469

LCO No. 2001

02001_____PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) As used in this
2 section, "hospital" means an establishment for the lodging, care and
3 treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical
4 or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in
5 general hospitals.

6 (b) Each hospital shall:

7 (1) Identify and use immediate measures to move any admitted
8 patient in the emergency department to an alternative, appropriate
9 location not later than eight hours after the admission. In identifying
10 such alternative locations, the hospital shall consider the use of beds in
11 solariums and hallways near nursing stations as well as other
12 appropriate locations. All staffing, services, privacy, infection control
13 and confidentiality procedures shall be consistently in place in all
14 hospitals regardless of bed location.

15 (2) Have in place effective monitoring protocols to track and

16 identify length of stay patterns and deviations, both for inpatients and
17 for patients in the emergency department.

18 (3) Develop appropriate planning to prevent the diversion of
19 patients to other hospitals and to prevent the maintenance of admitted
20 patients within emergency departments for more than eight hours.

21 (4) Report to the Commissioner of Public Health, in the manner
22 prescribed by the commissioner, whenever it has more than six
23 diversions of patients from the hospital in any month or more than
24 twenty-five diversions in any year.

25 (c) The Commissioner of Public Health shall conduct periodic
26 inspections of hospital emergency departments to:

27 (1) Determine and ensure compliance with the provisions of
28 subsection (b) of this section, by conducting at least one unannounced
29 inspection of one hospital per region per year.

30 (2) Investigate any report made pursuant to subdivision (4) of
31 subsection (b) of this section.

32 (3) Determine whether violations or deficiencies have been
33 corrected.

34 (4) Accomplish any other purpose deemed necessary and
35 appropriate by the commissioner to enforce the provisions of this
36 section.

37 (d) The Commissioner of Public Health may adopt regulations, in
38 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, as are necessary to
39 implement the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish standards for hospital emergency departments.

[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.]