



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 160

February Session, 2006

* SB00160PH 032006 *

AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL ACQUIRED INFECTIONS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "hospital" means any hospital or outpatient surgical facility licensed
3 under chapter 368v of the general statutes; and "hospital acquired
4 infection" means any localized or systemic patient condition that (1)
5 resulted from the presence of an infectious agent or agents, or its toxin
6 or toxins, as determined by clinical examination and confirmed by
7 laboratory testing, and (2) was not found to be present or incubating at
8 the time of admission unless the infection was related to a previous
9 admission to the same hospital.

10 (b) On or before October 1, 2006, the Commissioner of Public Health
11 shall compile a list of reportable hospital acquired infections that occur
12 in critical care units, which shall include, but not be limited to, surgical
13 wound infections, central line related bloodstream infections and
14 ventilator associated pneumonia. The commissioner shall review the
15 list of reportable hospital acquired infections periodically, but not less
16 than annually, to ascertain whether any additions, deletions or
17 modifications to the list are necessary.

18 (c) On or before October 1, 2008, the commissioner shall expand the
19 list pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to include additional
20 types of hospital acquired infections identified by the commissioner

21 after consultation with persons with expertise in the prevention,
22 identification and control of hospital acquired infections and the public
23 reporting of such information.

24 (d) A hospital shall report each hospital acquired infection on the
25 list of reportable hospital acquired infections to the Department of
26 Public Health not later than seven days after the diagnosis of such
27 hospital acquired infection.

28 (e) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in
29 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the
30 provisions of this section. Such regulations shall include, but shall not
31 be limited to: (1) A list of reportable hospital acquired infections that
32 are consistent with the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of this
33 section; (2) a prescribed form for the reporting of hospital acquired
34 infections that requires information concerning (A) the specific
35 infectious agents or toxins and the site of each infection, (B) the clinical
36 department or unit where the patient first became infected or was first
37 diagnosed, (C) the patient's diagnosis at the time of admission and any
38 relevant specific surgical, medical or diagnostic procedure performed
39 during the admission; and (3) standards and coding for the tracking
40 and reporting of hospital acquired infections that are consistent with
41 the recommendations of the National Healthcare Safety Network of
42 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The commissioner
43 may require the use of said forms prior to the adoption of said
44 regulations.

45 (f) (1) On or before October 1, 2007, and annually thereafter, the
46 commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
47 11-4a of the general statutes, on hospital acquired infections, to the
48 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
49 of matters relating to public health.

50 (2) For the report due on or before October 1, 2007, the
51 commissioner shall include (A) an aggregate total number of hospital
52 acquired infections reported by hospitals to the department, and (B)

53 recommendations concerning any changes in reporting requirements
54 that would improve the completeness and accuracy of the information
55 submitted by hospitals to the department concerning hospital acquired
56 infections.

57 (3) For the report due on or before October 1, 2008, and annually
58 thereafter, the commissioner shall include (A) an aggregate total
59 number of hospital acquired infections, (B) individual hospital
60 acquired infection rates, adjusted for potential differences in risk
61 factors, which factors shall be established by the commissioner in
62 regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54 of the general
63 statutes, and (C) comparisons with state-wide averages and the steps
64 that hospitals are taking to reduce the incidence of such infections.

65 (g) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, information
66 collected pursuant to this section shall not be disclosed pursuant to
67 subsection (a) of section 1-210 of the 2006 supplement to the general
68 statutes at any time, and information collected pursuant to this section
69 shall not be subject to subpoena or discovery or introduced into
70 evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding except as
71 otherwise specifically provided by law. Nothing in this section shall be
72 construed to limit access to or disclosure of investigative files,
73 including any hospital acquired infection report contained in such
74 files, maintained by the department as otherwise provided in section
75 19a-499 of the general statutes.

76 (h) If the department determines that it will initiate an investigation
77 of a hospital acquired infection that has been reported, such
78 investigation may include review by one or more practitioners with
79 clinical expertise of the type involved in the reported hospital acquired
80 infection.

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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Subsection (d) of section 1 was rewritten for clarity.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*