



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7293

January Session, 2007

* HB07293PH_APP032307 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
OVERCROWDING.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Connecticut Health and
2 Educational Facilities Authority may allocate funds for the fiscal year
3 ending June 30, 2008, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the purpose of
4 providing grants to nonprofit hospitals within the state to expand their
5 emergency department facilities. Such funds may be (1) allocated from
6 the authority's reserves, (2) allocated from the proceeds of bonds or
7 other obligations issued by the authority pursuant to chapter 187 of the
8 general statutes, or (3) obtained in any manner permitted under said
9 chapter 187.

10 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 10a-178 of the general statutes is
11 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
12 *1, 2007*):

13 (g) "Health care institution" means (1) any nonprofit, state-aided
14 hospital or other health care institution, including The University of
15 Connecticut Health Center, which is entitled, under the laws of the
16 state, to receive assistance from the state by means of a grant made
17 pursuant to a budgetary appropriation made by the General Assembly
18 and any emergency department operated by such hospital or health

19 care institution, (2) any other hospital or other health care institution
20 which is licensed, or any nonprofit, nonstock corporation which shall
21 receive financing or shall undertake to construct or acquire a project
22 which is or will be eligible to be licensed, as an institution under the
23 provisions of sections 19a-490 to 19a-503, inclusive, including any
24 emergency department operated by such hospital or health care
25 institution, or any nonprofit, nonstock, nonsectarian facility which is
26 exempt from taxation under the provisions of section 12-81 or 38a-188
27 and which is a health care center under the provisions of sections 38a-
28 175 to 38a-191, inclusive, or (3) any nonprofit corporation or
29 emergency department wholly owned by two or more hospitals or
30 other health care institutions which operates for and on behalf of such
31 hospitals or other health care institutions a project, as defined in
32 subsection (b) of this section, or is a nursing home.

33 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) On or before October 1,
34 2007, each hospital licensed by the Department of Public Health as an
35 acute care hospital shall establish and maintain protocols for
36 responding to emergency department overcrowding and shall make
37 available such protocols and report on the implementation of such
38 protocols upon request from the Department of Public Health. Such
39 protocols shall designate alternate sites outside of the hospital
40 emergency department to accommodate admitted patients pending
41 availability of inpatient beds.

42 (b) Each such hospital shall track emergency department
43 overcrowding patterns according to methods established by the
44 Department of Public Health pursuant to section 5 of this act, and shall
45 report such information to the Department of Public Health and the
46 Office of Health Care Access on a monthly basis, beginning January 1,
47 2008.

48 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of Public
49 Health shall (1) not later than October 1, 2007, establish a state-wide
50 program for tracking and reporting hospital emergency department
51 overcrowding, (2) not later than October 1, 2007, develop and oversee

52 implementation of a tool or mechanism for tracking emergency
53 department overcrowding for hospital emergency departments that do
54 not have electronic patient tracking systems, and (3) not later than
55 October 1, 2008, establish best practice protocols for hospital
56 department overcrowding based upon a review and analysis of
57 hospital overcrowding protocols developed pursuant to section 6 of
58 this act.

59 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health shall establish a Hospital
60 Emergency Department Overcrowding Advisory Committee which
61 shall advise the Department of Public Health on the issues set forth in
62 subsection (a) of this section. The advisory committee shall consist of
63 representatives of the Department of Public Health, hospital
64 administrators and emergency department physicians and nurses
65 appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10a-178(g)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PH

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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