



# House of Representatives

**File No. 578**

General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**(Reprint of File No. 141)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5449  
As Amended by House Amendment Schedule  
"A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 10, 2008

**AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY CERTIFICATES  
BY LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND ADVANCED  
PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 17a-503 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (d) Any clinical social worker licensed under chapter 383b or  
5 advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 378 who (1)  
6 has received a minimum of eight hours of specialized training in the  
7 conduct of direct evaluations [under this subsection] as a member of  
8 any mobile crisis team, jail diversion program, crisis intervention team,  
9 advanced supervision and intervention support team, or assertive case  
10 management program operated by or under contract with the  
11 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and (2) based  
12 upon the direct evaluation of a person, has reasonable cause to believe  
13 that such person has psychiatric disabilities and is dangerous to  
14 himself or herself or others or gravely disabled, and in need of

15 immediate care and treatment, may issue an emergency certificate in  
16 writing that authorizes and directs that such person be taken to a  
17 general hospital for purposes of a medical examination. The person  
18 shall be examined within twenty-four hours and shall not be held for  
19 more than seventy-two hours unless committed under section 17a-502  
20 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes. The Commissioner of  
21 Mental Health and Addiction Services shall collect and maintain  
22 statistical and demographic information pertaining to emergency  
23 certificates issued under this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17a-503(d)

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill expands the number of Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) programs in which licensed clinical social workers and advanced practice registered nurses (APRN’s) who have received specialized training, can issue emergency certificates directing that a person be taken to a hospital for evaluation. This will result in no fiscal impact.

House “A” strikes the underlying bill and replaced it with a similar provision identified above resulting in no fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

There is no fiscal impact anticipated in the out years.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5449 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING ISSUANCE OF EMERGENCY CERTIFICATES BY LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill permits social workers and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who are members of crisis intervention or advanced supervision and intervention support teams operated by or under contract with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to issue emergency certificates directing a person with psychiatric disabilities to be taken to a hospital for evaluation. Under current law, social workers and APRNs may issue emergency certificates only if they are members of a DMHAS-operated or -funded mobile crisis team, jail diversion program, or assertive case management program.

As with social workers and APRNs currently authorized to issue emergency certificates, those working in the newly covered programs must (1) have received at least eight hours of specialized training in conducting direct evaluations and (2) as a result of direct evaluation, believe the person has psychiatric disabilities; is a danger to himself, herself, or others or gravely disabled; and needs immediate care or treatment.

\*House Amendment "A" eliminates provisions specifying that the timeframes for examining and releasing a person subject to an emergency certificate run from the time he or she is taken into custody.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND**

***Crisis Intervention and Advanced Supervision and Intervention Support Teams (ASIST)***

Crisis intervention teams consist of police and clinicians who respond to situations in a community involving someone with a psychiatric disorder. Teams currently operate in Waterbury, New Haven, West Haven, Norwich, New London, Stamford, Bridgeport, and Hartford. In the ASIST program, DMHAS clinicians work with probation and parole officers to help DMHAS clients who have become involved with the criminal justice system stay out of jail. The program currently operates in New Britain, New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, Middletown, and Norwich.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/07/2008)