



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 458**

LCO No. 2172

\* SB00458PH\_APP030708 \*

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING LINGUISTIC ACCESS IN HOSPITALS AND DIVERSITY IN THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-490i of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

3 (a) Each acute care hospital in this state shall:

4 (1) Develop and annually review a policy on the provision of  
5 interpreter services to non-English-speaking patients;

6 (2) Ensure, to the extent possible, the availability of interpreter  
7 services to patients whose primary language is spoken by a group  
8 comprising not less than five per cent of the population residing in the  
9 geographic area served by the hospital;

10 (3) Prepare and maintain a list of qualified interpreters;

11 (4) Notify hospital staff of the requirement to provide interpreters to  
12 non-English-speaking patients;

13 (5) Post multilingual notices of the availability of interpreters to  
14 non-English-speaking patients;

15 (6) Review standardized forms to determine the need for translation  
16 for use by non-English-speaking patients;

17 (7) Consider providing hospital staff with picture and phrase sheets  
18 for communication with non-English-speaking patients; and

19 (8) Establish liaisons to non-English-speaking communities in the  
20 geographic area served by the hospital.

21 (b) The Department of Public Health shall (1) monitor and enforce  
22 hospital compliance with the requirements set forth in subsection (a) of  
23 this section, (2) examine the effectiveness of such requirements, and (3)  
24 on or before January 1, 2010, and biennially thereafter, report to the  
25 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance  
26 of matters relating to public health, in accordance with the provisions  
27 of section 11-4a, on any findings and recommendations regarding how  
28 to improve linguistic access standards in acute care hospitals.

29 Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2008) The Department of Public  
30 Health shall (1) collect and track data on the race and ethnicity of all  
31 health care professionals licensed in this state, and (2) on or before  
32 December 31, 2009, and annually thereafter, report, in accordance with  
33 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the diversity  
34 of the state's health care workforce to the joint standing committee of  
35 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
36 health.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2008	19a-490i
Sec. 2	October 1, 2008	New section

**PH**

*Joint Favorable C/R*

**APP**

