



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6264

LCO No. 2651

02651_____PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-WIDE HEALTH CARE FACILITY PLANNING.

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-634 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) The Office of Health Care Access [, in consultation with the
4 Department of Public Health, shall carry out a continuing] shall
5 conduct, on an annual basis, a state-wide health care facility utilization
6 study. [, including a study of existing health care delivery systems;
7 recommend improvements in health care procedures to the health care
8 facilities and institutions; recommend to the commissioner legislation
9 in the area of health care programs; and report annually to the
10 Governor and the General Assembly its findings, recommendations
11 and proposals, as of January first, for improving efficiency, lowering
12 health care costs, coordinating use of facilities and services and
13 expanding the availability of health care throughout the state.] Such

14 study shall include, but not be limited to, an assessment of: (1) Current
15 availability and utilization of acute hospital care, hospital emergency
16 care, specialty hospital care, outpatient surgical care, primary care and

17 clinic care; (2) geographic areas and subpopulations that may be
18 underserved or have reduced access to specific types of health care
19 services; and (3) other factors that the Commissioner of Health Care
20 Access deems pertinent to health care facility utilization. Not later than
21 June thirtieth of each year, the commissioner shall report, in
22 accordance with section 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing
23 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
24 relating to public health and human services on the findings of the
25 study. Such report may also include the commissioner's
26 recommendations for addressing identified gaps in the provision of
27 health care services and recommendations concerning a lack of access
28 to health care services.

29 (b) The office, in consultation with such other state agencies as the
30 Commissioner of Health Care Access deems appropriate, shall
31 establish and maintain a state-wide health care facilities plan, [,
32 including provisions for an ongoing evaluation of the facility
33 utilization study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section
34 to: (1) Determine the availability of acute care, long-term care and
35 home health care services in private and public institutional and
36 community-based facilities providing diagnostic or therapeutic
37 services for residents of this state; (2) determine the scope of such
38 services; and (3) anticipate future needs for such facilities and
39 services.] Such plan may include, but not be limited to: (1) An
40 assessment of the availability of acute hospital care, hospital
41 emergency care, specialty hospital care, outpatient surgical care,
42 primary care, and clinic care; (2) an evaluation of the unmet needs of
43 persons at risk and vulnerable populations as determined by the
44 commissioner; (3) a projection of future demand for health care
45 services and the impact that technology may have on the demand,
46 capacity or need for such services; and (4) recommendations for the
47 expansion, reduction or modification of health care facilities or
48 services. In the development of the plan, the office shall consider the
49 recommendations of any advisory bodies which may be established by
50 the commissioner. The commissioner may also incorporate the

51 recommendations of authoritative organizations whose mission is to
52 promote policies based on best practices or evidence-based research.
53 The commissioner shall develop a process that encourages hospitals to
54 incorporate the state-wide health care facilities plan into hospital long-
55 range planning and shall facilitate communication between
56 appropriate state agencies concerning innovations or changes that may
57 affect future health planning. The office shall update the state-wide
58 health care facilities plan on or before July 1, 2012, and every five years
59 thereafter. Said plan shall be considered part of the state health plan
60 for purposes of office deliberations pursuant to section 19a-637.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2009	19a-634

Statement of Purpose:

To revise the statute concerning the Office of Health Care Access' authority to engage in utilization studies and facility planning.

[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.]