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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 6617**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUITY OF CARE IN NURSING HOMES.***

##### **SUMMARY:**

The law establishes a patients' bill of rights for nursing home and chronic disease hospital patients. The bill of rights contains a broad and detailed set of rights an individual must be informed of before or upon admission to the facility and during the patient's stay.

This bill requires that patients receive oral and written notice of these rights and of all rules and regulations on patient conduct and responsibilities. Under the bill, the notification must be given (1) before or upon admission to the facility; (2) whenever there is a strike, work stoppage, or lockout involving facility employees; and (3) any time the patient asks during his or her stay.

The notice, presumably for both oral and written purposes, must be in a language that the patient, a spouse, family member, or legally designated person, readily understands. The patient, or one of the other recognized individuals, must provide the facility with a written acknowledgement of receiving the rights each time they are provided.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

##### **BACKGROUND**

###### ***Patients' Bill of Rights***

The patients' bill of rights includes, among other things, the (1) freedom from neglect and abuse, (2) freedom from restraint, (3) right of respect, (4) freedom from discrimination, (5) right to keep property, (6) right to privacy, (7) right to decide one's living arrangements, (8) right to keep and control one's money, (9) right to receive information, (10) right to medical and social services, (11) freedom to leave, (12)

freedom from being unfairly discharged, (13) right to complain, and (14) right to receive visitors, (CGS § 19a-550).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 10 (03/28/2011)