



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

**Committee Bill No. 5727**

LCO No. 4730



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIME FOR PARENTAL NOTIFICATION  
WHEN A CHILD IS ADMITTED TO A HOSPITAL FOR DIAGNOSIS OR  
TREATMENT OF A MENTAL DISORDER.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-79 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

3 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any hospital  
4 may admit any child for diagnosis or treatment of a mental disorder  
5 upon the written request of the child's parent. A child fourteen years of  
6 age or over may be admitted under this section without consent of his  
7 or her parents if such child consents in writing, provided that the  
8 parents of such child, if any, shall be notified [within five days of] not  
9 later than twenty-four hours after such admission that such child has  
10 been hospitalized under the provisions of this subsection. If the  
11 whereabouts of such parents are unknown, then such child's nearest  
12 relative shall be so notified. In the event that a child's parent or  
13 guardian requests in writing release of such child, or in the event a  
14 child age fourteen or older who has been admitted with his or her  
15 written consent requests in writing his or her release, the hospital shall

16 release such child or commence commitment proceedings in  
17 accordance with sections 17a-76 and 17a-77 and the hospital may  
18 detain the child for five business days, in order to allow an application  
19 to be filed. In the event such an application is filed, such  
20 hospitalization shall be continued for an additional period of time to  
21 allow such application to be heard, but in no event shall such  
22 hospitalization continue for more than fifteen days, or twenty-five  
23 days, if the matter has been transferred to the Superior Court, beyond  
24 the receipt of such application by the court.

25 (b) No child in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and  
26 Families shall be admitted for diagnosis or treatment except in  
27 accordance with sections 17a-76 to 17a-78, inclusive, unless (1) the  
28 commissioner requests such admission, (2) legal counsel appointed by  
29 the superior court for juvenile matters or court of probate in  
30 accordance with section 17a-76 agrees, in writing, to such admission,  
31 and (3) the child, if fourteen years of age or over consents to such  
32 admission. The parents or guardian of the person of such child, if any,  
33 shall be notified [within five days of] not later than twenty-four hours  
34 after such admission that such child has been hospitalized under the  
35 provisions of this section. If the whereabouts of such parents or  
36 guardian of the person is unknown, then the nearest relative of such  
37 child shall be notified. In the event either parent or the guardian of the  
38 person of the child requests in writing the release of such child, the  
39 hospital shall release such child, unless the Commissioner of Children  
40 and Families commences commitment proceedings in accordance with  
41 sections 17a-76 and 17a-77. The hospital may detain the child for five  
42 business days after receipt of the written request in order to allow an  
43 application to be filed. If an application is filed, hospitalization shall be  
44 continued for an additional period of time to allow the application to  
45 be heard, but in no event shall hospitalization continue for more than  
46 fifteen days, or twenty-five days, if the matter has been transferred to  
47 the Superior Court, beyond the receipt of such application by the court.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	17a-79
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**PH**      *Joint Favorable*