



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5385

LCO No. 1638



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN CONCERNING LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN HOSPITALS.

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 Section 19a-490i of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2014*):
- 3 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.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	19a-490i

Statement of Purpose:

To require hospitals to provide language interpreter services for non-English speaking patients.

[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.]