
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5385

AN ACT CONCERNING LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN HOSPITALS.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires acute care hospitals to ensure the availability of interpreter services for patients whose primary language is spoken by at least 5% of the population residing in the hospital's geographic service area. Current law requires hospitals to do so only to the extent possible.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

BACKGROUND

Interpreter Services

The law requires acute care hospitals to undertake a number of activities to ensure that patients who do not speak English have access to their services, including (1) preparing and maintaining a list of qualified interpreters, (2) posting multilingual notices regarding the availability of interpreters, and (3) establishing liaisons with non-English speaking communities in their geographic service areas (CGS § 19a-490i).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/10/2014)