



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Committee Bill No. 290**

LCO No. 3805



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:  
(AGE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT-DESIGNATED CAREGIVERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-504c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) The Department of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in  
4 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to set minimum  
5 standards for hospital discharge planning services. Such standards  
6 shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, requirements for (1) a  
7 written discharge plan prepared in consultation with the patient, or the  
8 patient's family or representative, and the patient's physician, [and] (2)  
9 on and after October 1, 2015, a procedure for advance notice of the  
10 discharge plan to the patient [of the patient's discharge] and any  
11 person the patient designates as a caregiver pursuant to subsection (b)  
12 of this section as soon as practicable, but not later than the date a  
13 physician approves such discharge plan, in writing, and (3) provision  
14 of a copy of the discharge plan to the patient and such caregiver prior  
15 to discharge. Whenever a hospital refers a patient's name to a nursing  
16 home as part of the hospital's discharge planning process, or when a

17 hospital patient requests such a referral, the hospital shall make a copy  
18 of the patient's hospital record available to the nursing home and shall  
19 allow the nursing home access to the patient for purposes of care  
20 planning and consultation.

21 (b) On and after October 1, 2015, minimum standards for hospital  
22 discharge planning shall include, but not be limited to, requirements  
23 that hospitals:

24 (1) Provide patients with the opportunity, upon admission, to: (A)  
25 Designate one or more caregivers for follow-up care to be given to the  
26 patient after hospital discharge, and (B) authorize, in writing, the  
27 hospital to release any of the patient's specific medical information the  
28 patient wants to release to such caregiver;

29 (2) Record in each patient's file the name and contact information  
30 for each designated caregiver or a notation if the patient declines to  
31 designate a caregiver; and

32 (3) In advance of discharge, provide each designated caregiver with  
33 (A) complete written follow-up care instructions for the patient, (B) an  
34 opportunity to ask questions of a health care provider, and (C) contact  
35 information for follow-up care and services.

36 (c) A patient may change or remove a designated caregiver at any  
37 time after admission. The hospital shall record any such change in the  
38 patient's file. Such designation shall not be construed to (1) require  
39 service by a named caregiver, or (2) interfere with the rights of a health  
40 care representative named in a document duly executed in accordance  
41 with the provisions of chapter 368w or the patient's wishes as  
42 expressed in an advance health care directive duly executed in  
43 accordance with the provisions of chapter 368w.

44 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a private  
45 right of action against a hospital, a hospital employee or any  
46 consultant or contractor with whom a hospital has a contractual

47 relationship.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	19a-504c

**Statement of Purpose:**

To facilitate follow-up care for hospital patients by requiring hospitals to record names of designated caregivers and provide detailed instructions for follow-up care.

*[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.]*

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H.B. 5455