



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Raised Bill No. 856**

LCO No. 1327



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT 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 Section 19a-490i of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, 2015*):

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	October 1, 2015	19a-490i
-----------	-----------------	----------

**PH**      *Joint Favorable*