



**Senate Bill No. 856**

**Public Act No. 15-34**

**AN ACT CONCERNING LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN HOSPITALS.**

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

Section 1. Section 19a-490i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

Each acute care hospital in this state shall:

- (1) Develop and annually review a policy on the provision of interpreter services to non-English-speaking patients;
- (2) Ensure [, to the extent possible,] the availability of interpreter services to patients whose primary language is spoken by a group comprising not less than five per cent of the population residing in the geographic area served by the hospital;
- (3) Prepare and maintain a list of qualified interpreters;
- (4) Notify hospital staff of the requirement to provide interpreters to non-English-speaking patients;
- (5) Post multilingual notices of the availability of interpreters to non-English-speaking patients;

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(6) Review standardized forms to determine the need for translation for use by non-English-speaking patients;

(7) Consider providing hospital staff with picture and phrase sheets for communication with non-English-speaking patients; and

(8) Establish liaisons to non-English-speaking communities in the geographic area served by the hospital.

Approved June 5, 2015