



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Raised Bill No. 1101**

LCO No. 6278



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING AN EVALUATION OF HOSPITALS OPERATED  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION  
SERVICES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 1 of public act 18-86 is repealed and the following  
2 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a task force to (1) review and evaluate the  
4 operations, conditions, culture and finances of Connecticut Valley  
5 Hospital and Whiting Forensic Hospital. Such review shall include, but  
6 need not be limited to, whether such operations, conditions, culture or  
7 finances have improved since Whiting Forensic Hospital's separation  
8 from Connecticut Valley Hospital and its licensure and regulation by  
9 the Department of Public Health, (2) evaluate the feasibility of creating  
10 an independent, stand-alone office of inspector general that shall be  
11 responsible for providing ongoing, independent oversight of  
12 Connecticut Valley Hospital and Whiting Forensic Hospital, including,  
13 but not limited to, receiving and investigating complaints concerning  
14 employees of Connecticut Valley Hospital and Whiting Forensic

15 Hospital, (3) examine complaints and any other reports of  
16 discriminatory employment practices at said hospitals, except any  
17 information or documentation not subject to disclosure under the  
18 Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the general  
19 statutes or any other federal or state confidentiality law, (4) assess the  
20 implications of a patient of Whiting Forensic Hospital being permitted  
21 to be present during a search of his or her possessions, (5) evaluate the  
22 membership of the advisory board for Whiting Forensic Hospital  
23 established pursuant to section 17a-565 of the general statutes, as  
24 amended by [this act] public act 18-86, (6) examine the role of the  
25 Psychiatric Security Review Board established pursuant to section 17a-  
26 581 of the general statutes, (7) evaluate the need to conduct a  
27 confidential survey regarding the employee work environment at  
28 Connecticut Valley Hospital and Whiting Forensic Hospital, including,  
29 but not limited to, worker morale, management and any incidences of  
30 bullying, intimidation or retribution, and (8) review the statutory  
31 definitions of abuse and neglect in the behavioral health context.

32 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

33 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
34 one of whom shall be a senior administrator of a behavioral health  
35 facility, and one of whom shall have law enforcement or corrections  
36 experience or experience working in a secured facility;

37 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
38 of whom shall be a psychologist or psychiatrist with forensic  
39 experience, and one of whom shall be a person who has lived with or  
40 experienced mental illness;

41 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
42 Representatives, who shall be a former or current administrator of a  
43 hospital with a bed capacity of at least two hundred;

44 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
45 a patient advocate;

46 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
47 Representatives, who shall have experience providing direct care  
48 services to persons with behavioral health disorders; and

49 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall  
50 have experience providing direct care services at a hospital.

51 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than  
52 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
53 filled by the appointing authority.

54 (d) The chairperson of the task force shall be selected from among  
55 its members. Such chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the  
56 task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the  
57 effective date of this section.

58 (e) Any employee of Connecticut Valley Hospital or Whiting  
59 Forensic Hospital offering testimony before the task force shall be  
60 permitted to testify, at such employee's request, without the presence  
61 of any task force member who is an employee of Whiting Forensic  
62 Hospital or Connecticut Valley Hospital.

63 ~~[(e)]~~ ~~(f)~~ The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of  
64 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
65 health shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

66 ~~[(f)]~~ ~~(g)~~ In performing its review and evaluation under subsection  
67 (a) of this section, the task force may hold a public forum, which shall  
68 provide opportunity for public comment.

69 ~~[(g)]~~ ~~(h)~~ Not later than January 1, ~~[2019]~~ 2020, the task force shall  
70 submit a preliminary report, in accordance with the provisions of  
71 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its findings and  
72 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General  
73 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health. Not  
74 later than January 1, ~~[2021]~~ 2022, the task force shall submit a final  
75 report on its findings and recommendations to said joint standing

76 committee. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits  
77 such final report or January 1, [2021] 2022, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	PA 18-86, Sec. 1

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require a review of any improvements to the operations, conditions, culture and finances of Whiting Forensic Hospital and Connecticut Valley Hospital.

*[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.]*