

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 958**

LCO No. 5405

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMELY TRANSFER OF MEDICAL  
RECORDS BETWEEN HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS.**

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

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each institution, as defined  
2       in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, shall, upon receipt of a patient-  
3       approved medical records request, transfer such patient's medical  
4       records to another institution (1) immediately, if such request is urgent,  
5       or (2) not later than two business days after such request is made, if such  
6       request is not urgent.

7       Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 20-7c of the general statutes is  
8       repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
9       *passage*):

10       (d) Upon a written request of a patient, a patient's attorney or  
11       authorized representative, or pursuant to a written authorization, a  
12       provider, except as provided in section 4-194, shall furnish to the person  
13       making such request a copy of the patient's health record, including but  
14       not limited to, bills, x-rays and copies of laboratory reports, contact lens  
15       specifications based on examinations and final contact lens fittings  
16       given within the preceding three months or such longer period of time  
17       as determined by the provider but no longer than six months, records of  
18       prescriptions and other technical information used in assessing the  
19       patient's health condition. No provider shall refuse to return to a patient  
20       original records or copies of records that the patient has brought to the  
21       provider from another provider. When returning records to a patient, a

22 provider may retain copies of such records for the provider's file,  
23 provided such provider does not charge the patient for the costs  
24 incurred in copying such records. No provider or other party in  
25 possession or control of a patient's medical records shall charge a  
26 patient, patient's attorney or patient's authorized representative more  
27 than (1) sixty-five cents per page, or (2) any patient rate amount or  
28 reasonable cost-based fee promulgated under any federal or state law  
29 or regulation of Connecticut state agencies or administrative guidance  
30 regarding such law or regulation, whichever is less, regardless of  
31 whether such patient rate amount or reasonable cost-based fee applies  
32 to requests by a patient's attorney or patient's authorized representative,  
33 including any research fees, handling fees or related costs, and the cost  
34 of first class postage, if applicable, for furnishing a health record  
35 pursuant to this subsection, except such provider may charge a patient  
36 the amount necessary to cover the cost of materials for furnishing a copy  
37 of an x-ray, provided no such charge shall be made for furnishing a  
38 health record or part thereof to a patient, a patient's attorney or  
39 authorized representative if the record or part thereof is necessary for  
40 the purpose of supporting a claim or appeal under any provision of the  
41 Social Security Act or a claim or appeal for veterans' benefits under any  
42 provision of Title 38 of the United States Code or chapter 506 and the  
43 request is accompanied by documentation of the claim or appeal. A  
44 provider shall furnish a health record requested pursuant to this section  
45 within thirty days of the request. No health care provider, who has  
46 purchased or assumed the practice of a provider who is retiring or  
47 deceased, may refuse to return original records or copied records to a  
48 patient who decides not to seek care from the successor provider. When  
49 returning records to a patient who has decided not to seek care from a  
50 successor provider, such provider may not charge a patient for costs  
51 incurred in copying the records of the retired or deceased provider.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	20-7c(d)
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