



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE  
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CROWDING.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before July 1, 2023, the  
2 Commissioner of Public Health shall convene a working group to  
3 advise the commissioner regarding methods to alleviate emergency  
4 department crowding and the lack of available emergency department  
5 beds in the state, including, but not limited to, the following:

6 (1) The establishment of a quality measure for the timeliness of the  
7 transfer of an emergency department patient, who will be admitted to  
8 the hospital, out of the hospital's emergency department;

9 (2) The establishment of emergency department discharge units to  
10 expedite the discharge of patients from the emergency department;

11 (3) (A) An evaluation of the percentage of emergency department  
12 patients who are held in the emergency department after being  
13 admitted to the hospital and while waiting for an inpatient bed to  
14 become available, and (B) the development of a plan to decrease such  
15 percentage; and

16 (4) The reduction in liability for hospitals and their emergency  
17 physicians when patient crowding of a hospital's emergency

18 department has reached the point of causing significant wait times for  
19 patients seeking emergency department services.

20 (b) The working group convened pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
21 section may include, but need not be limited to, the following  
22 members: (1) Two physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the  
23 general statutes representing the Connecticut chapter of a national  
24 organization of emergency physicians; (2) two emergency physicians  
25 licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, one of whom  
26 shall be the director of the emergency department of a larger hospital  
27 system in the state, and one of whom shall be the director of the  
28 emergency department of an independent community hospital; (3) one  
29 primary care physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general  
30 statutes; (4) two representatives of a hospital association in the state;  
31 (5) one representative of a medical society in the state; (6) one  
32 representative of a national organization of physicians; (7) one  
33 representative of the Connecticut chapter of a national organization of  
34 pediatric physicians; (8) one representative of the Connecticut chapter  
35 of a national association of psychiatrists; (9) one representative of a  
36 national association of nurses; (10) two nurses licensed pursuant to  
37 chapter 378 of the general statutes, one of whom shall be the nurse  
38 director of the emergency department in a larger hospital system, and  
39 one of whom shall be the nurse director of the emergency department  
40 in an independent community hospital; (11) one licensed health care  
41 provider working in an urgent care center in the state; (12) two patient  
42 care navigators, one of whom shall be employed by a larger hospital  
43 system, and one of whom shall be employed by an independent  
44 community hospital; (13) one representative of hospital patients in the  
45 state; (14) one provider of emergency medical transportation services  
46 in the state; (15) one representative of a national association of retired  
47 persons; (16) the Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's  
48 designee; (17) the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction  
49 Services, or the commissioner's designee; (18) the Commissioner of  
50 Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee; (19) one  
51 representative from the Department of Public Health's Office of

52 Emergency Medical Services; (20) one representative from the  
 53 Department of Public Health's facilities licensing and investigations  
 54 section; and (21) one representative of the Office of the Long-Term  
 55 Care Ombudsman. The chairpersons of the working group shall be one  
 56 of the physicians representing the Connecticut chapter of a national  
 57 organization of emergency physicians and one of the representatives of  
 58 a hospital association in the state, who shall be selected by the  
 59 Commissioner of Public Health. Once selected, the chairpersons of the  
 60 working group may convene the first meeting of the working group  
 61 whether or not any other members of the working group identified in  
 62 subdivisions (1) to (21), inclusive, of this subsection have been selected  
 63 by the Commissioner of Public Health. If said commissioner has not  
 64 selected any member of the working group described in said  
 65 subdivisions on or before August 1, 2023, the cochairpersons may  
 66 jointly select such member. The first meeting of the working group  
 67 shall be held not later than December 1, 2023. The working group shall  
 68 meet biannually and at other times upon the call of the cochairpersons.

69 (c) On or before January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter until  
 70 January 1, 2025, the working group shall report its findings and  
 71 recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Health and, in  
 72 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
 73 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
 74 cognizance of matters relating to public health.

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

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*