AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY.

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

Section 1. Section 19a-490dd of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2024):

(a) As used in this section: (1) "Health care facility" means a hospital or an outpatient clinic, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, a long-term care facility, as defined in section 17a-405, [and] a hospice facility, licensed pursuant to section 19a-122b, or a physician's, a physician assistant's or an advanced practice registered nurse's office; and (2) "medical diagnostic equipment" means (A) an examination table, (B) an examination chair, (C) a weight scale, (D) mammography equipment, and (E) x-ray, imaging and other radiological diagnostic equipment.

(b) [On and after January 1, 2023, each] Each health care facility shall take into consideration the technical standards for accessibility developed by the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board in accordance with Section 4203 of the Patient
Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended from time to time, when purchasing medical diagnostic equipment.

(c) Not later than December 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Public Health shall notify each health care facility, physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370, physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370 and advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378, of information pertaining to the provision of health care to individuals with accessibility needs, including, but not limited to, the technical standards for accessibility developed by the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board in accordance with Section 4203 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended from time to time, for medical diagnostic equipment. The Department of Public Health shall post such information on its Internet web site.

(d) On and after January 1, 2025, each health care facility with two or more examination rooms shall (1) purchase only medical equipment that complies with such technical standards for accessibility, and (2) ensure that at least one of such examination rooms has the necessary (A) dimensions to enable a patient using an assistive device, including, but not limited to, a wheelchair, to easily enter, exit and maneuver around such examination room, and (B) staff and equipment, including, but not limited to, a lift, to assist a patient with a disability in accessing any medical diagnostic equipment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| Section 1 | July 1, 2024 | 19a-490dd |

Statement of Purpose:
To expand access to medical diagnostic equipment and examination rooms for persons with a disability.

[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.]