
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5200

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

SUMMARY

This bill requires physicians', physician assistants'(PAs), and advanced practice registered nurses' (APRNs) offices to consider certain federal technical accessibility standards when purchasing medical diagnostic equipment. Specifically, these offices must consider the technical standards developed by the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) in accordance with the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Existing law already requires hospitals, outpatient clinics, and long-term care and hospice facilities to do this.

The bill also requires the public health commissioner to annually notify these offices, as she must currently do for the above facilities and licensed physicians, PAs, and APRNs, about information on providing health care to people with accessibility needs, including the ATBCB technical standards.

Additionally, starting January 1, 2025, the bill requires these facilities and offices with two or more examination rooms to do the following:

1. purchase only medical equipment that complies with the ATBCB standards and
2. ensure that at least one of the examination rooms has the necessary (a) dimensions to enable a patient using an assistive device (e.g., wheelchair) to easily enter, exit, and maneuver around the room and (b) staff and equipment (e.g., a lift) to help a patient with a disability to access any medical diagnostic equipment.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, “medical diagnostic equipment” includes an examination table or chair; weight scale; mammography equipment; and x-ray, imaging, and other radiological diagnostic equipment.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board

The board is an independent federal agency that provides information, technical assistance, and training on accessibility design for people with disabilities. Among other things, it also develops and maintains design criteria for transit vehicles, telecommunications equipment, and electronic and information technology.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35 Nay 1 (03/22/2024)