



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 6976***

LCO No. 4196



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING HOSPITAL EMERGENCY  
DEPARTMENT DIVERSION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this  
2 section, (1) "emergency department diversion" means the status of a  
3 hospital licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes that  
4 reroutes incoming ambulances to other hospitals due to the diverting  
5 hospital's emergency department saturation or lack of medical  
6 capability, and (2) "emergency department saturation" means the status  
7 of a hospital licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes  
8 wherein its emergency department resources are fully committed and  
9 are not available for additional incoming ambulance patients.

10 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health shall establish (1) emergency  
11 department diversion requirements for hospitals, including, but not  
12 limited to, the requirement that each hospital adopt emergency  
13 department diversion policies and the required content of such policies,  
14 (2) the permissible grounds for, and procedures to be followed by, a  
15 hospital to declare an emergency department diversion and the  
16 procedures to be followed by the hospital after declaring such diversion,

17 (3) requirements for hospitals to receive diverted patients, and (4)  
18 requirements for emergency medical service organizations licensed or  
19 certified under chapter 368d of the general statutes in the event that a  
20 hospital declares an emergency department diversion. Prior to declaring  
21 an emergency department diversion, a hospital shall provide notice to  
22 the Department of Public Health in a form and manner prescribed by  
23 the commissioner.

24 (c) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the  
25 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the  
26 provisions of this section. The commissioner may implement policies  
27 and procedures necessary to implement the provisions of this section  
28 while in the process of adopting such policies and procedures as  
29 regulations, provided notice of intent to adopt regulations is published  
30 on the eRegulations System not later than twenty days after the date of  
31 implementation. Policies and procedures implemented pursuant to this  
32 section shall be valid until final regulations are adopted in accordance  
33 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.

34 (d) Failure of an emergency medical service organization to comply  
35 with the requirements established pursuant to the provisions of this  
36 section shall be grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to subsection  
37 (c) of section 19a-180 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the Commissioner of Public Health to establish certain emergency department diversion requirements for hospitals and emergency medical service organizations.

*[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.]*