General Assembly **Substitute Bill No. 1538**

January Session, 2025

SB01538PH 033125

AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT BOARDING AND CROWDING.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Probate Court Administrator and the Commissioner of Social Services shall evaluate the feasibility of establishing an expedited process for the appointment of a conservator for patients of hospital emergency departments who lack the capacity to consent to receive health care services from the hospital to ensure such patients receive such services in a timely fashion and help alleviate emergency department boarding and crowding. Not later than January 1, 2026, said administrator and commissioner shall jointly report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health regarding such evaluation and any recommendations for legislation necessary to establish an expedited conservator process for emergency department patients. As used in this section, "emergency department boarding" means holding patients who have been admitted to the hospital after presenting to the emergency department in the emergency department while awaiting an inpatient bed.

Sec. 2. Section 19a-490ii of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter until January 1, 2029, each hospital in the state with an emergency department shall, and each hospital operated exclusively by the state may, directly or in consultation with a hospital association in the state, analyze the following data from the previous calendar year concerning its emergency department: (1) The number of patients who received treatment in the emergency department; (2) the number of emergency department patients who were admitted to the hospital; (3) for patients admitted to the hospital after presenting to the emergency department, the average length of time from the patient's first presentation to the emergency department until the patient's admission to the hospital; and (4) the percentage of patients who were admitted to the hospital after presenting to the emergency department but were transferred to an available bed located in a physical location other than the emergency department more than four hours after an admitting order for the patient was completed. Each such hospital shall utilize such analysis with the goals of (A) developing policies or procedures to reduce wait times for admission to the hospital after a patient presents to the emergency department, (B) informing potential methods to improve admission efficiencies, and (C) examining root causes for delays in admission times.

(b) Not later than March 1, 2025, and annually thereafter until March 1, 2029, each hospital that conducts an analysis pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and, not later than March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter until March 1, 2029, shall also submit such report to the Commissioners of Public Health and Health Strategy, regarding its findings and any recommendations for achieving the goals described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section.

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

Section 1	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 2	*from passage*	19a-490ii

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
In Section 2(b), "shall also submit such report" was added for clarity.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*