

Public Act No. 10-117

**AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH RELATED
STATUTES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEALTH INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE OF CONNECTICUT.**

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

Sec. 2. Section 19a-490n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

(a) As used in this section, "commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health; "department" means the Department of Public Health; "healthcare associated infection" means any localized or systemic condition resulting from an adverse reaction to the presence of an infectious agent or its toxin that (1) occurs in a patient in a healthcare setting, (2) was not found to be present or incubating at the time of admission unless the infection was related to a previous admission to the same health care setting, and (3) if the setting is a hospital, meets the criteria for a specific infection site, as defined by the National Centers for Disease Control; and "hospital" means a hospital licensed under this chapter.

(b) There is established [a] an Advisory Committee on Healthcare Associated Infections, which shall consist of the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, and the following members appointed by the commissioner: Two members representing the Connecticut Hospital Association; two members from organizations representing health care consumers; two members who are either hospital-based infectious disease specialists or epidemiologists with demonstrated knowledge and competence in infectious disease related issues; one representative of the Connecticut State Medical Society; one representative of a labor organization representing hospital based nurses; and two public members. All appointments to the committee shall be made no later than August 1, 2006, and the committee shall convene its first meeting no later than September 1, 2006.

(c) [On or before April 1, 2007, the] The Advisory Committee on Healthcare Associated Infections shall:

(1) Advise the department with respect to the development, implementation, operation and monitoring of a mandatory reporting system for healthcare associated infections;

(2) Identify, evaluate and recommend to the department appropriate standardized measures, including aggregate and facility specific reporting

measures for healthcare associated infections and processes designed to prevent healthcare associated infections in hospital settings and any other healthcare settings deemed appropriate by the committee. Each such recommended measure shall, to the extent applicable to the type of measure being considered, be (A) capable of being validated, (B) based upon nationally recognized and recommended standards, to the extent such standards exist, (C) based upon competent and reliable scientific evidence, (D) protective of practitioner information and information concerning individual patients, and (E) capable of being used and easily understood by consumers; and

(3) Identify, evaluate and recommend to the Department of Public Health appropriate methods for increasing public awareness about effective measures to reduce the spread of infections in communities and in hospital settings and any other healthcare settings deemed appropriate by the committee.

Sec. 3. Section 19a-490o of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

(a) [On or before October 1, 2007, the] The Department of Public Health shall [, within available appropriations, implement] consider the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Healthcare Associated Infections established pursuant to section 19a-490n, as amended by this act, with respect to the establishment of a mandatory reporting system for healthcare associated infections [and appropriate standardized measures for the reporting of data related] designed to prevent healthcare associated infections.

(b) [On or before October 1, 2007, the] The Department of Public Health shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health concerning the plan for [implementing] the mandatory reporting system for healthcare associated infections recommended by the Advisory Committee on Healthcare Associated Infections pursuant to section 19a-490n, as amended by this act, and the status of such plan implementation, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

(c) On or before [October 1, 2008] May 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health on the information collected by the department pursuant to the mandatory reporting system for healthcare associated infections established under subsection (a) of this section, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such report shall be posted on the department's Internet web site and made available to the public.