



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

**Amendment**

LCO No. 7122

**\*HB0661807122HDO\***

Offered by:

REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6618

File No. 544

Cal. No. 343

**"AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH RELATED STATUTES."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) As used in this section:  
4 "CLAS standards" means standards 4 to 7, inclusive, of the Culturally  
5 and Linguistically Appropriate Standards issued by the United States  
6 Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health  
7 mandating that language access services be provided by health care  
8 providers who are recipients of federal funds.

9 (b) On or before October 1, 2011, the Commission on Health Equity  
10 shall establish a collaborative committee consisting of representatives  
11 from various health care entities that shall monitor and ensure  
12 accountability in the adoption of CLAS standards by health care  
13 providers receiving federal funds in the state. The collaborative  
14 committee shall consist of the following members: The chairperson of  
15 the state Commission on Health Equity; the chairperson of the

16 Connecticut Multi-Cultural Health Partnership; the Commissioner of  
17 Public Health; the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction  
18 Services; the Healthcare Advocate; the president of the Connecticut  
19 Hospital Association; the chief executive officer of the Community  
20 Health Center Association of Connecticut; the president of the board of  
21 directors for the Connecticut Center for Primary Care; the executive  
22 director of the Connecticut State Dental Association; the chairperson of  
23 the board of directors of the Mental Health Association of Connecticut;  
24 the president of the executive board of directors of the Medical  
25 Interpreting Association of Connecticut; the president of the board of  
26 directors of the Connecticut Nurses' Association; the president of the  
27 Connecticut Emergency Nurses Association; the chairperson of the  
28 state Commission on Pharmacy; and the chief executive officer of the  
29 Connecticut Association of Healthcare Facilities. Any member of the  
30 committee may appoint a designee to serve in the same capacity as the  
31 appointing member. The chairpersons of the Commission on Health  
32 Equity shall select a chairperson and a vice-chairperson of the  
33 collaborative committee from among the committee membership. On  
34 or before January 1, 2012, the chairperson of the collaborative  
35 committee shall convene the initial meeting of the committee. The  
36 committee shall meet quarterly thereafter or more often as needed at  
37 the call of the chairperson.

38 (c) The collaborative committee shall: (1) Prepare quarterly reports  
39 concerning the adoption of, and compliance with, CLAS standards by  
40 health care providers in the state; (2) conduct an analysis of the  
41 number of individuals with limited English proficiency served in  
42 health care settings and the methods used in such settings to ensure  
43 compliance with CLAS standards; (3) establish a self-monitoring board  
44 that ensures culturally competent health care access throughout the  
45 state; (4) conduct train-the-trainer workshops on best practices in  
46 implementing and complying with CLAS standards; and (5) annually  
47 report to the General Assembly on its findings, including a report on  
48 the challenges of implementing the language access services mandated  
49 by CLAS standards. In carrying out the duties prescribed in this

50 subsection, the collaborative committee shall seek advice and input  
51 from individuals and entities that are representative of the broad  
52 spectrum of health care providers in the state.

53 (d) On or before January 1, 2013, and annually thereafter until  
54 January 1, 2018, the collaborative committee shall report, in accordance  
55 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its  
56 activities to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
57 having cognizance of matters relating to public health, human services  
58 and insurance and real estate. The collaborative committee shall  
59 terminate on January 1, 2018."