



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

***Raised Bill No. 960***

LCO No. 3352



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE  
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CROWDING.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before July 1, 2023, the  
2 Commissioner of Public Health shall convene a working group to advise  
3 the commissioner regarding methods to alleviate emergency  
4 department crowding and the lack of available emergency department  
5 beds in the state, including, but not limited to, the following:

6 (1) The establishment of a quality measure for the timeliness of the  
7 transfer of an emergency department patient who will be admitted to  
8 the hospital out of the hospital's emergency department;

9 (2) The establishment of emergency department discharge units to  
10 expedite the discharge of patients from the emergency department;

11 (3) (A) An evaluation of the percentage of emergency department  
12 patients who are held in the emergency department after being  
13 admitted to the hospital and while waiting for an inpatient bed to  
14 become available, and (B) the development of a plan to decrease such

15 percentage; and

16 (4) The reduction in liability for hospitals and their emergency  
17 physicians when patient crowding of a hospital's emergency  
18 department has reached the point of causing significant wait times for  
19 patients seeking emergency department services.

20 (b) The working group convened pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
21 section shall include, but need not be limited to, the following members:

22 (1) Two physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general  
23 statutes representing the Connecticut chapter of a national organization  
24 of emergency physicians; (2) two representatives of a hospital  
25 association in the state; (3) a representative of a medical society in the  
26 state; (4) a representative of a national organization of physicians; (5) a  
27 representative of the Connecticut chapter of a national organization of  
28 pediatric physicians; (6) a representative of the Connecticut chapter of a  
29 national association of psychiatrists; (7) a representative of a national  
30 association of nurses; (8) a representative of a national association of  
31 retired persons; (9) the Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare  
32 Advocate's designee; and (10) the Commissioner of Mental Health and  
33 Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee. The chairpersons of  
34 the working group shall be one of the physicians representing the  
35 Connecticut chapter of a national organization of emergency physicians  
36 and one of the representatives of a hospital association in the state, who  
37 shall be selected by the Commissioner of Public Health. Once selected,  
38 the chairpersons of the working group may convene the first meeting of  
39 the working group whether or not any other members of the working  
40 group identified in subdivisions (1) to (10), inclusive, of this subsection  
41 have been selected by the Commissioner of Public Health. If said  
42 commissioner has not selected any member of the working group  
43 described in said subdivisions on or before August 1, 2023, the  
44 cochairpersons may jointly select such member. The first meeting of the  
45 working group shall be held not later than December 1, 2023. The  
46 working group shall meet biannually and at other times upon the call of  
47 the cochairpersons.

48 (c) On or before January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter until January  
49 1, 2025, the working group shall report its findings and  
50 recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Health and, in  
51 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
52 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
53 cognizance of matters relating to public health.

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

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a working group to evaluate emergency department crowding.

*[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.]*