



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 402

February Session, 2024

House Bill No. 5200

House of Representatives, April 10, 2024

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY.

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

1 Section 1. Section 19a-490dd of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

3 (a) As used in this section: (1) "Health care facility" means a hospital
4 or an outpatient clinic, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490, a
5 long-term care facility, as defined in section 17a-405, [and] a hospice
6 facility, licensed pursuant to section 19a-122b, or a physician's, a
7 physician assistant's or an advanced practice registered nurse's office;
8 and (2) "medical diagnostic equipment" means (A) an examination table,
9 (B) an examination chair, (C) a weight scale, (D) mammography
10 equipment, and (E) x-ray, imaging and other radiological diagnostic
11 equipment.

12 (b) [On and after January 1, 2023, each] Each health care facility shall
13 take into consideration the technical standards for accessibility

14 developed by the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers
15 Compliance Board in accordance with Section 4203 of the Patient
16 Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended from time
17 to time, when purchasing medical diagnostic equipment.

18 (c) Not later than December 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
19 Commissioner of Public Health shall notify each health care facility,
20 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370, physician assistant licensed
21 pursuant to chapter 370 and advanced practice registered nurse licensed
22 pursuant to chapter 378, of information pertaining to the provision of
23 health care to individuals with accessibility needs, including, but not
24 limited to, the technical standards for accessibility developed by the
25 federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board in
26 accordance with Section 4203 of the Patient Protection and Affordable
27 Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended from time to time, for medical
28 diagnostic equipment. The Department of Public Health shall post such
29 information on its Internet web site.

30 (d) On and after January 1, 2025, each health care facility with two or
31 more examination rooms shall (1) purchase only medical equipment
32 that complies with such technical standards for accessibility, and (2)
33 ensure that at least one of such examination rooms has the necessary (A)
34 dimensions to enable a patient using an assistive device, including, but
35 not limited to, a wheelchair, to easily enter, exit and maneuver around
36 such examination room, and (B) staff and equipment, including, but not
37 limited to, a lift, to assist a patient with a disability in accessing any
38 medical diagnostic equipment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	19a-490dd

PH *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
UConn Health Ctr.	GF - Cost	282,700	Minimal
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	200,000	200,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires, beginning January 1, 2025, certain health care facilities to purchase accessible medical equipment and ensure at least one examination room's equipment is accessible to patients with disabilities. These requirements are anticipated to result in a one-time cost of \$282,700 in FY 25 to the University of Connecticut Health Center (UHC). To comply with the bill, UHC must purchase additional electric exam tables, bariatric exam tables, lifts, and wheelchair scales. The cost of the new equipment ranges from \$4,000 for a wheelchair scale to \$9,000 for an electric exam table. Maintenance and service costs on the new equipment are expected to be minimal.

Additionally, the bill is anticipated to result in a cost to the Department of Public Health (DPH) of approximately \$200,000 in both FY 25 and FY 26 only for two full-time consultants needed to investigate complaints and oversee the attainment of any corrective measures

issued by the department.¹ It is anticipated that a surge of complaints will be addressed in the first two years that the bill is effective and that, afterwards, the number of annual complaints will be addressed within existing DPH resources.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation. There are no outyear costs to DPH.

¹ The bill requires, starting 1/1/25, that health care facilities and offices with two or more examination rooms have the requisite staff and equipment to support a patient with a disability in accessing medical diagnostic equipment (e.g., a lift), exclusively purchase medical equipment that complies with federal standards, and ensure that at least one of their examination rooms has the dimensions necessary to enable a patient using an assistive device (e.g., wheelchair) to enter, exit, and maneuver easily.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5200*****AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires physicians', physician assistants'(PAs), and advanced practice registered nurses' (APRNs) offices to consider certain federal technical accessibility standards when purchasing medical diagnostic equipment. Specifically, these offices must consider the technical standards developed by the federal Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) in accordance with the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Existing law already requires hospitals, outpatient clinics, and long-term care and hospice facilities to do this.

The bill also requires the public health commissioner to annually notify these offices, as she must currently do for the above facilities and licensed physicians, PAs, and APRNs, about information on providing health care to people with accessibility needs, including the ATBCB technical standards.

Additionally, starting January 1, 2025, the bill requires these facilities and offices with two or more examination rooms to do the following:

1. purchase only medical equipment that complies with the ATBCB standards and
2. ensure that at least one of the examination rooms has the necessary (a) dimensions to enable a patient using an assistive device (e.g., wheelchair) to easily enter, exit, and maneuver around the room and (b) staff and equipment (e.g., a lift) to help a patient with a disability to access any medical diagnostic

equipment.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, “medical diagnostic equipment” includes an examination table or chair; weight scale; mammography equipment; and x-ray, imaging, and other radiological diagnostic equipment.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board

The board is an independent federal agency that provides information, technical assistance, and training on accessibility design for people with disabilities. Among other things, it also develops and maintains design criteria for transit vehicles, telecommunications equipment, and electronic and information technology.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35 Nay 1 (03/22/2024)