



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 958**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMELY TRANSFER OF MEDICAL RECORDS BETWEEN HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS AND THE FEE CHARGED FOR COPIES OF MEDICAL RECORDS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Each institution, as defined  
2 in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, shall, upon receipt of a  
3 patient-approved medical records request, transfer such patient's  
4 medical records to another institution (1) immediately, if such request  
5 is urgent, or (2) not later than two business days after such request is  
6 made, if such request is not urgent.

7 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 20-7c of the general statutes is  
8 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
9 *passage*):

10 (d) Upon a written request of a patient, a patient's attorney or  
11 authorized representative, or pursuant to a written authorization, a  
12 provider, except as provided in section 4-194, shall furnish to the  
13 person making such request a copy of the patient's health record,  
14 including but not limited to, bills, x-rays and copies of laboratory  
15 reports, contact lens specifications based on examinations and final  
16 contact lens fittings given within the preceding three months or such  
17 longer period of time as determined by the provider but no longer  
18 than six months, records of prescriptions and other technical

19 information used in assessing the patient's health condition. No  
20 provider shall refuse to return to a patient original records or copies of  
21 records that the patient has brought to the provider from another  
22 provider. When returning records to a patient, a provider may retain  
23 copies of such records for the provider's file, provided such provider  
24 does not charge the patient for the costs incurred in copying such  
25 records. No provider or other party in possession or control of a  
26 patient's medical records shall charge a patient, patient's attorney or  
27 patient's authorized representative more than (1) sixty-five cents per  
28 page, or (2) any patient rate amount or reasonable cost-based fee  
29 promulgated under any federal or state law or regulation of  
30 Connecticut state agencies or administrative guidance regarding such  
31 law or regulation, whichever is less, regardless of whether such patient  
32 rate amount or reasonable cost-based fee otherwise applies to requests  
33 by a patient's attorney or patient's authorized representative, including  
34 any research fees, handling fees or related costs, and the cost of first  
35 class postage, if applicable, for furnishing a health record pursuant to  
36 this subsection, except such provider may charge a patient the amount  
37 necessary to cover the cost of materials for furnishing a copy of an x-  
38 ray, provided no such charge shall be made for furnishing a health  
39 record or part thereof to a patient, a patient's attorney or authorized  
40 representative if the record or part thereof is necessary for the purpose  
41 of supporting a claim or appeal under any provision of the Social  
42 Security Act or a claim or appeal for veterans' benefits under any  
43 provision of Title 38 of the United States Code or chapter 506 and the  
44 request is accompanied by documentation of the claim or appeal. A  
45 provider shall furnish a health record requested pursuant to this  
46 section within thirty days of the request. No health care provider, who  
47 has purchased or assumed the practice of a provider who is retiring or  
48 deceased, may refuse to return original records or copied records to a  
49 patient who decides not to seek care from the successor provider.  
50 When returning records to a patient who has decided not to seek care  
51 from a successor provider, such provider may not charge a patient for  
52 costs incurred in copying the records of the retired or deceased  
53 provider.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	20-7c(d)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 2, "otherwise" was inserted before "applies" for clarity.

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*