

HB 398 -- HOSPITAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

SPONSOR: Wallingford

This bill requires hospitals to adopt workplace violence prevention plans to protect health care employees and personnel before August 28, 2022. The plan must be in effect at all times in all patient care units and the hospital must give annual training for employees who provide direct care to patients. The hospital must also have a system for responding to violent incidents and annual assessment to improve upon factors that may contribute to workplace violence. The hospital cannot intentionally prevent an employee from seeking assistance from local law enforcement when a violent incident occurs.

The hospital must keep written records of violent incidents against hospital employees for five years and must report any such violent incidents to the Department of Health and Senior Services. If the incident resulted in an injury, involved the use of a firearm or other dangerous weapon, or presented an urgent or emergent threat to the welfare, health, or safety of hospital personnel, the hospital shall report the incident to the Department within 24 hours. All other incidents of violence shall be reported within 72 hours.

The Department must then submit an annual report to the General Assembly and Governor before January 1, 2023 and annually thereafter.

This bill is the same as SB 533 (2020) and SB 390 (2019).