STATE OF NEW YORK

6223--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 6, 2025

Introduced by Sen. C. RYAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to treatment of deaf, hard of hearing and nonverbal individuals during admission to a hospital

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 2805-r of the public health law, as added by chapter 451 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

§ 2805-r. Patients unable to **hear or** verbally communicate. 1. The department shall make regulations concerning the treatment of general hospital patients who are unable to **hear or** verbally communicate, for whatever reason, with a health care practitioner or aide.

2. Such regulations shall establish standards for a **deaf, hard of hearing or nonverbal** patient to have present during [~~his or her~~] **their** period of admission a parent, guardian, representative**, interpreter** or authorized helper to assist in the communication with health care personnel. **Such person shall be permitted to remain with the patient for interpretation until a hospital-provided qualified interpreter, or other qualified person is assigned to the patient.**

3. The standards established under this section shall be incorporated into the statement of rights and responsibilities adopted pursuant to paragraph (g) of subdivision one of section twenty-eight hundred three of this article.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ***italics*** (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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