



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Olds Plaza Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

INFECTION CONTROL STANDARDS

House Bill 4390

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Bennane

Committee: Health Policy

Complete to 1-2-96

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4390 AS INTRODUCED 2-14-95

Among its many duties, the Department of Public Health (DPH) promulgates rules to establish standards for various organizational, operational, and procedural requirements for health facilities and agencies. (The Public Health Code defines a "health facility or agency" as being a hospital, clinical laboratory, county medical care facility, freestanding surgical outpatient facility, health maintenance organization, home for the aged, nursing home, hospice, and ambulance or air transport operation, and includes such facilities located in a correctional facility or college.)

House Bill 4390 would amend the Public Health Code to require the DPH to also set standards through administrative rules for a minimum plan of infection control that would apply to all health facilities and agencies, and for the prevention and control of iatrogenic illness or infection. The bill would define "iatrogenic illness or infection" as being "an illness or infection that occurs as a result of treatment received in a health facility or agency." The bill would specify that the rules would require each health facility or agency to provide, at a minimum, all of the following:

- * Annual staff training in the implementation of procedures required by the rules.
- * Information free of charge to patients and, if requested, to the DPH and the general public as to the number of life threatening infections, infections that could cause serious bodily harm, and deaths at that health facility during the previous year that involved or were due to iatrogenic illness or infection. Further, the information provided would have to be specific to the type of medical procedure inquired about and be updated every six months, and would have to contain, at a minimum, the number of times the procedure was done at the facility during the previous year, and the aggregate numbers, expressed in percentages, of iatrogenic illnesses and deaths that resulted from the procedure at the facility. The information would have to be provided on forms approved by the DPH and could contain additional information as to the number of infections or deaths related to iatrogenic illness or infections that resulted from the medical procedure at the facility.
- * That if a facility implemented infection control measures in addition to the minimum measures that would be established by the bill's requirements, information on the additional measures would be required to be sent to the DPH.

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* That each incidence of iatrogenic illness or infection would have to be referred to an employee or agent of the facility who was skilled in epidemiology in order to determine if a change in the facility's infection control procedure would be necessary.

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