



STATE OF CONNECTICUT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services



Legislative Update # 7

February 11, 2015

Bills drafted by Committees, proposed bills as well as bills raised as concepts are beginning to come out in print. This update will flag those bills enabling you to have more detail as to legislative intent where possible.

Please remember that Wednesday February 18th is the day when the Governor will present his budget to the legislature. Appropriations sub-committees have yet to be announced as well as the budget public hearing dates. We will get them to you as soon as they become available. There are other public hearings scheduled for next week that the behavioral health community may be interested in attending and they are in this update as well.

BILLS OF INTEREST

SB 252 AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AT HOSPITALS. To require hospitals to report cases of infectious disease to the Department of Public Health.

SB 405 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RETENTION OF SECURITY DEPOSITS FOR AGE-RESTRICTED PUBLIC HOUSING. To incentivize age-restricted housing options for elderly persons.

SB 408 AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS. To ameliorate homelessness among youth.

SB386 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF POWDERED ALCOHOL. To protect the public by banning the sale of powdered alcohol.

SB 460 AN ACT REGARDING IDENTIFYING RESIDENTS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE. To identify residents with unmet needs.

SB 471 AN ACT REQUIRING RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES TO CARRY LIABILITY INSURANCE. To protect residents of residential care facilities.

SB 799 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT OF MIDDLETOWN. To alleviate the financial and tax burden cast upon the South Fire District of Middletown in 2011 when the state eliminated the Connecticut Valley Hospital Fire Department, resulting in a dramatic increase in call volume whereby the tax-paying residents of the South Fire District have assumed that responsibility with no financial support since 2011.

SB 810 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION ON PROVIDER PRICE VARIATION AND REFORM. To study the extent of price variation between providers of health care services, identify the causes of such price variation and recommend policy changes to reduce such variation and ensure that prices fairly relate to actual cost and quality.

SB 812 AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS AND HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE. To promote the state-wide implementation of electronic health records among all health care providers and establish a state-wide health information exchange.

SB 888 AN ACT CONCERNING ADEQUATE AND SAFE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY AND YOUNGER PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. To ensure adequate and safe state-assisted housing for the elderly and younger persons with disabilities.

SB 897 AN ACT CREATING A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS. To create a scholarship program for regional community-technical college students.

SB 905 AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAM FOR THE TREATMENT OF VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER. To require the Departments of Public Health and Veterans' Affairs to study and report on the implementation of a treatment program for traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.

SB 906 AN ACT CREATING THE INCARCERATED VETERANS REINTEGRATION COUNCIL. To establish an Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council.

HB 5058 AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT. To expand substance abuse treatment options.

HB 5444 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES. To enhance the care and treatment of persons with psychiatric disabilities.

HB 5906 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTION. To improve access to treatment for opioid addiction.

HB 5912 AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING IN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL. To require training in mental health first aid for emergency medical services personnel.

HB 6265 AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING. To increase surveillance of the issuance of prescriptions for drugs.

HB 6269 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH. To provide mental health services for homeless youth.

HB 6276 AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS IN YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION. To further train health care professionals in youth suicide prevention.

HB 6279 AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING, CONTINUING EDUCATION AND THE RETURN OF UNUSED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS. To reduce prescription drug abuse.

HB 6283 AN ACT REGULATING ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES. To provide electronic cigarette users with information on the risks of and protect nonusers from exposure to electronic cigarettes.

HB 6287 AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF IMPAIRED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS. To ensure patient safety.

HB 6290 AN ACT LIMITING THE ADVERTISING OF ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS. To limit the advertising of electronic nicotine delivery systems.

HB 6294 AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS. To expand the offering of mental health services by allowing applicants for a license as a professional counselor to use certain internship hours to meet the qualifications for licensure.

HB6305 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING FOR STATE AND MUNICIPAL POLICE. To require training for state and municipal police in mental health first aid.

HB6550 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID PROVIDER AUDITS. To ensure that audits of Medicaid providers are conducted in a fair and reasonable manner.

HB 6658 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF NALOXONE, NITROGLYCERINE AND EPINEPHRINE BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS. To allow qualified persons to administer life-saving substances.

HB 6737 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING TRANSITIONAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. To implement the recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee concerning transitional services for youth and young adults with autism spectrum disorder.

HB 6756 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MEDICAL RESPITE FOR THE HOMELESS. To require the Commissioner of Housing to establish a pilot program to provide temporary housing to homeless persons suffering from illness or injury.

HB 6759 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LANDLORDS AND TENANTS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF BED BUG INFESTATIONS. To establish landlord and tenant rights and responsibilities regarding bed bug infestations in rental housing.

HB 6761 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING. To make changes to certain statutes concerning supportive housing.

HB 6780 AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS COMMON TO VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS. To require certain health care professionals to complete continuing education on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

The Planning and Development Committee will hold a public hearing on **Friday, February 13, 2015 at 11:00 A.M. in Room 2B** of the LOB. Public speaker order will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. in Room 2B of the LOB. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to PDtestimony@cga.ct.gov. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Legislators. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

Proposed S.B. No. 799 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SOUTH FIRE DISTRICT OF MIDDLETOWN

Proposed H.B. No. 5618 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Proposed H.B. No. 6483 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY GROUP HOME DISTRIBUTION

AGING COMMITTEE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

The Aging Committee will hold a public hearing followed by a committee meeting on **Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. in Room 1C** of the LOB. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 9:00 A.M. in Room 1C of the LOB. Please submit 30 copies of written testimony to Committee staff at 9:00 A.M. in Room 1C of the LOB. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Legislators, Constitutional Officers, State Agency Heads and Chief Elected Municipal Officials. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

SUBJECT MATTER: Elderly Nutrition; Alzheimer's Respite Care Program; Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility; Emergency Power Needs; Home Care; State Agency and Disability Resource Center Program

H.B. No. 6716 (RAISED) AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO HOME CARE.

H.B. No. 6717 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM.

H.B. No. 6684 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS IN PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

**HOUSING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

The Housing Committee will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.** in **Room 2D** of the LOB. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 12:00 P.M. in Room 2D of the LOB. Please submit 35 copies of written testimony to Committee staff at 12:00 P.M. in Room 2D of the LOB. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to HSGtestimony@cga.ct.gov. Testimony should clearly state testifier name and related Bills. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Legislators, Constitutional Officers, State Agency Heads and Chief Elected Municipal Officials. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

SUBJECT MATTER: Miscellaneous Housing Bills

S.B. No. 888 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADEQUATE AND SAFE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY AND YOUNGER PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

H.B. No. 6756 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MEDICAL RESPITE FOR THE HOMELESS.

H.B. No. 6759 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LANDLORDS AND TENANTS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF BED BUG INFESTATIONS.

H.B. No. 6761 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

The Program Review and Investigations Committee will hold a public hearing on **Monday, February 23, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.** in **Room 2D** of the LOB. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 12:00 P.M. in the Second Floor Atrium of the LOB. Please submit 20 copies of written testimony to Committee staff at 12:00 P.M. in the Second Floor Atrium of the LOB. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to PRItestimony@cga.ct.gov. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Legislators, Constitutional Officers, State Agency Heads and Chief Elected Municipal Officials. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

SUBJECT MATTER: Autism Transition Service

H.B. No. 6737 (RAISED) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING TRANSITIONAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.

H.B. No. 6738 (RAISED) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE FEDERAL ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT.

- The Public health Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Friday Feb 20th at 10:30am

HB 6718 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION STATUTES.

(DMHAS sponsored bill will be on the agenda that day.)

Accessing Information via the Connecticut General Assembly Web Page:

If you wish to get the details/status on a bill, read the text of a bill, or check on committee agendas or upcoming events in the Bulletin, log onto the Connecticut General Assembly web page at: <http://www.cga.ct.gov>

If you wish to look up committee agendas or check upcoming events in the Bulletin, these can be accessed on that same page by scrolling down and clicking on the appropriate item.