



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
Department of Mental Health  
& Addiction Services**



**Legislative Update # 10**

**February 19, 2015**

The Governor's budget bills have come out in print and this update will flag the bills that may be of interest to the behavioral health community. We have not had time to read each bill section by section. Please remember that the bills to implement the Governor's budget will have separate public hearings in the committee of cognizance. You can determine the committee of cognizance by looking at where the bill has been referred.

They are as follows:

**H.B. No. 6824** REP. SHARKEY, 88th DIST.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th DIST.; SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. DUFF, 25th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.  
**REF. APPROPRIATIONS. This is the budget bill**

**H.B. No. 6825** REP. SHARKEY, 88th DIST.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th DIST.; SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. DUFF, 25th DIST. 'AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS AND ADDRESSING THE DEFICIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.  
**REF. APPROPRIATIONS. This bill implements the recent rescissions**

**H.B. No. 6826** REP. SHARKEY, 88th DIST.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th DIST.; SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. DUFF, 25th DIST. 'AN ACT REVISING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.  
**REF. APPROPRIATIONS**

**H.B. No. 6846** REP. SHARKEY, 88th DIST.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th DIST.; SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. DUFF, 25th DIST. 'AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations concerning human services programs. This bill contains many of the changes to the DSS budget  
**REF. HUMAN SERVICES**

**H.B. No. 6847** REP. SHARKEY, 88th DIST.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th DIST.; SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. DUFF, 25th DIST. 'AN ACT ENHANCING ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SERVICES FOR YOUTHS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.  
**REF. INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE**

**H.B. No. 6856** REP. SHARKEY, 88th DIST.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th DIST.; SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. DUFF, 25th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.  
REF. PUBLIC HEALTH

**S.B. No. 949** SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. DUFF, 25th DIST.; REP. SHARKEY, 88th DIST.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th DIST. 'AN ACT IMPROVING DATA SECURITY AND AGENCY EFFECTIVENESS', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.  
REF.

**S.B. No. 951** SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. DUFF, 25th DIST.; REP. SHARKEY, 88th DIST.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th DIST. 'AN ACT CONSOLIDATING CRIMINAL JUSTICE, JUVENILE AND FAMILY SERVICE PROGRAMS', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.  
REF. JUDICIARY

**S.B. No. 952** SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. DUFF, 25th DIST.; REP. SHARKEY, 88th DIST.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A SECOND CHANCE SOCIETY', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.  
REF. JUDICIARY

**S.B. No. 955** SEN. LOONEY, 11th DIST.; SEN. DUFF, 25th DIST.; REP. SHARKEY, 88th DIST.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th DIST. 'AN ACT IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET CONCERNING PUBLIC HEALTH', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.  
REF. PUBLIC HEALTH

### **DSS Budget**

While we have not been able to unpack the entire budget, there are changes in the DSS budget that will impact the behavioral health community. The following are a few of the changes we have been able to identify at this time.

- Funding for dual eligible medical/behavioral health pilot- eliminated
- Require dual eligible to pay all Medicare Part D co-pays
- Reduces provider rates under Medicaid
- Seeking federal reimbursement for substance abuse residential
- SSI COLA for aged blind and disabled population counted towards care
- Moves some HUSKY families into the Exchange

### **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>

The CGA schedule of events can be accessed on that same page by scrolling down and clicking on the appropriate item.