



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services



## Legislative Update # 12

February 27, 2015

In addition to the DMHAS budget hearing on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>, there are a number of public hearings next week for bills of interest to the behavioral health community. This past week, Committees have begun to vote bills out of committee and have taken votes on drafting proposed bills into Committee bills which means they are putting more “meat” or details into the bills. This update will give you hearing information as well as flag bills that are moving along in the process.

Here are some bills that have been drafted or have been voted out of Committee that may impact the behavioral health community.

### Voted out of Committee

SB 16 AN ACT CONCERNING BENEFITS PAYABLE FOR ASSESSMENTS TO DETERMINE A DIAGNOSIS OF A MENTAL OR NERVOUS CONDITION AND RELATED CONSULTATIONS. To prohibit limits on the number of visits to assess an insured for a diagnosis of a condition and to require health insurance coverage for consultations with certain health care providers during the assessment for a diagnosis of a condition and after a diagnosis of a mental or nervous condition.

SB 841 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE CHILDREN'S MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLAN. To establish the Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board that shall (1) execute and oversee the comprehensive implementation plan developed pursuant to section 17a-22bb, and (2) ensure the continued collaboration of agencies and stakeholders in order to prevent or reduce the long-term negative impact of mental, emotional and behavioral health issues on children.

### Voted to draft as a Committee bill

SB 18 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY HOARDING. To create a legislative task force to address the issue of hoarding, which has been identified as a major public health issue resulting in risk to the person hoarding their personal items as well as members of the public and to find solutions to this significant societal problem.

SB 386 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF POWDERED ALCOHOL. To protect the public by banning the sale of powdered alcohol.

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.

HB 5771 AN ACT AUTHORIZING PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE NINETY DAY PRESCRIPTIONS. To enable the filling of a ninety day prescription supply when certain conditions are met.

HB 5782 AN ACT ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE OR ADMINISTER AN OPIOID ANTAGONIST TO TREAT OR PREVENT A DRUG OVERDOSE. To allow licensed pharmacists to dispense or administer an opioid antagonist for the treatment of drug overdose.

HB 6483 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY GROUP HOME DISTRIBUTION. To determine how to equitably distribute group homes throughout the state.

**AGING COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015**

The Aging Committee will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.** in **Room 1B** of the LOB. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 9:00 A.M. in Room 1B of the LOB. Please submit 30 copies of written testimony to Committee staff at 9:00 A.M. in Room 1B 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.

SB 1004 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR HOUSING. To ensure adequate and safe state-assisted housing for elderly persons.

**INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015**

The Insurance and Real Estate Committee will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.** in **Room 2D** of the LOB. Please submit 25 copies of written testimony to Committee staff two hours prior to the start of the hearing in Room 2800 of the LOB. Testimony submitted after the sign-up may not be distributed until after the hearing. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 11:00 A.M. in Room 2800 of the LOB. 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. Bills will be heard in the order listed in the Bulletin. 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 Insurance Bills

HB 6847 AN ACT ENHANCING ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SERVICES FOR YOUTHS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

**VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015**

The Veterans' Affairs Committee will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.** in **Room 1B** of the LOB. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 12:00 P.M. in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB. Please submit 25 copies of written testimony to Committee staff at 12:00 P.M. in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. 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: Military records; Judicial Programs

SB 1015 (RAISED) AN ACT EXPANDING PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT. To require a separate veterans' docket be established in each judicial district and to require the Court Support Services Division to report on participation and eligibility for certain pretrial diversion programs.

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015**

The Public Health Committee will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.** in **Room 1D** of the LOB. The Committee is accepting electronic testimony via email at [phctestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:phctestimony@cga.ct.gov). Please submit electronic testimony in Word or PDF format no later than 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 3, 2015. If you are unable to submit electronic testimony, please submit 10 copies of written testimony no later than 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 in Room 3000 of the LOB. Please submit separate testimony for each bill. Testimony submitted after the deadline will not be available until after the hearing. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 11:00 A.M. in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB. 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. Bills will be heard in the order listed in the Bulletin. Unofficial sign-up sheet sheets have no standing with the Committee.

SUBJECT MATTER: Public Health Related Bills

Proposed 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.

Proposed H.B. No. 5626 AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS. To prevent misuse of prescription drugs.

Proposed H.B. No. 5444 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES. To enhance the care and treatment of persons with psychiatric disabilities.

Proposed H.B. No. 6276 AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS IN YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION. To further train health care professionals in youth suicide prevention.

Proposed H.B. No. 6269 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR HOMELESS YOUTH. To provide mental health services for homeless youth.

Proposed H.B. No. 5058 AN ACT CONCERNING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT. To expand substance abuse treatment options.

Proposed H.B. No. 5896 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NUTRITION EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL. To formalize a nutrition program to be adopted by school districts and implemented as part of the physical education curriculum.

Proposed H.B. No. 6279 AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING, CONTINUING EDUCATION AND THE RETURN OF UNUSED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS. To reduce prescription drug abuse.

Proposed H.B. No. 6265 AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING. To increase surveillance of the issuance of prescriptions for drugs.

Proposed H.B. No. 6287 AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF IMPAIRED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS. To ensure patient safety.

**\*HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015**

The Human Services Committee will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 5, 2015** at **12:00 P.M.** in **Room 2A** of the LOB. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 8:30 A.M. and conclude at 10:00 A.M. in the Second Floor Atrium of the LOB. Please submit 35 copies of written testimony to Committee staff no later than 10:00 A.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 [HStestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:HStestimony@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. Bills will be heard in the order listed in the Bulletin. 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 Bills

SB 978 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES. To provide additional funding to residential care homes to retain staff and cover property costs.

SB 1009 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES WHO HAVE COURT-APPOINTED CONSERVATORS. To streamline Medicaid eligibility determinations

for persons with mental disabilities who have court-appointed conservators and to study issues concerning the effective delivery of services to such persons.

**SB 1022 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR FACILITIES THAT COMPLETE MEDICARE OR MEDICAID APPLICATIONS FOR PATIENTS.** To require nursing home facilities, residential care homes and chronic disease hospitals that complete Medicare or Medicaid applications for patients to give such patients or their designated representatives a copy of the completed applications.

**HB 6909 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY BOARD.** To establish an advisory board to make recommendations concerning a state-wide plan to address the needs of persons with traumatic brain injuries.

**PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015**

The Program Review and Investigations Committee will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.** at the **Veterans Home**, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06237. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 6:00 P.M. in the Dining Room. Please submit 25 copies of written testimony to Committee staff by 6:30 P.M. at the Veterans Home, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06237. 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](mailto:PRItestimony@cga.ct.gov). 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: Residential Services at the Veterans' Home

**HB 6855 (RAISED) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE REGARDING RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AT THE VETERANS' HOME.** To implement the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee regarding residential services provided at the Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill.

**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.