



STATE OF CONNECTICUT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services



Legislative Update # 13

March 4, 2015

The DMHAS budget hearing is this Friday March 6th. DMHAS is scheduled to present our testimony to the Appropriations Committee from 1:30 to 2:30 and the public hearing starts at 4:30.

Given the volume of speakers expected, there are a few changes regarding sign up for the hearing on Friday.

There will be **two sign up lines** one for room 2C and one for room 2E. Each sign up line will also have a special needs list. The committee staff will divide up the Appropriations Committee membership who will be in attendance that evening so that legislators from each political party as well as Senators and Representatives will cover both hearings.

Please remember that the public hearing will cover all agencies that are in the "Health" subcommittee. This means that individuals impacted by the budgets of the Department of Public Health and the Department of Developmental Services will also be at this hearing.

In addition to the budget activity, the other legislative committees are continuing to hold their own public hearings on bills before them and some committees have voted bills out to the floor of the House and Senate. Please see new public hearing information as well as the status of the DMHAS bill below.

HB 6708 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION STATUTES. To make various revisions to the mental health and addiction statutes. Was voted out of Committee and is headed to the floor of the House for further action.

Public Hearings

Public Health Committee

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015

The Public Health Committee will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 10:30 A.M.** in **Room 1D** of the LOB. The Committee is accepting electronic testimony via email at PHCtestimony@cga.ct.gov. Please submit electronic testimony in Word or PDF format no later than 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. If you are unable to submit an electronic testimony, please submit 10 copies of written testimony no later than 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 11, 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 9:00 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 sheets have no standing with the committee.

SUBJECT MATTER: Public Health Related Bills

Proposed H.B. No. 5449 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES IN THE SAME PLACES WHERE SMOKING IS PROHIBITED. To support public health and close a loophole in the smoking ban by prohibiting the use of electronic cigarettes in the same places where smoking is prohibited.

Proposed H.B. No. 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.

Proposed H.B. No. 6290 AN ACT LIMITING THE ADVERTISING OF ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS. To limit the advertising of electronic nicotine delivery systems.

Proposed H.B. No. 6658 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF NALOXONE, NITROGLYCERINE AND EPINEPHRINE BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS. To allow qualified persons to administer life-saving substances.

Proposed H.B. No. 5906 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR OPIOID ADDICTION. To improve access to treatment for opioid addiction.

Proposed S.B. No. 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.

H.B. No. 6862 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR CHILDREN. To require the Commissioner of Public Health to conduct a study concerning the palliative use of marijuana for children.

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.