



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services



## Legislative Update # 14

March 10, 2015

The Budget hearings are done and the Appropriation's Sub-Committee work is beginning. The DMHAS budget is in the "Health" sub-committee chaired by Representative Patricia Dillon and Senator Terry Gerratana.

There are additional public hearings still going on in other committees this week. We hope this information is helpful to you as the session moves along.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

- ❖ **Governor's Bill 6856** An Act Concerning Substance Abuse and Opioid Overdose Prevention will be heard in the Public health Committee on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> time and place (TBD).

Other hearings scheduled for this week include:

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015**

The Education Committee will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 11, 2015** at **11:30 A.M.** in **Room 2C** of the LOB. Sign-up for the hearing will begin at 8:30 A.M in the First Floor Atrium of the LOB. Please submit 35 copies of written testimony to Committee staff by 9:30 A.M. in Room 3104 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 [EDTestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:EDTestimony@cga.ct.gov) by March 10, 2015 at 2:00 P.M. 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, Chief Elected Municipal Officials and Students. 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: Education Issues

H.B. No. 6976 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS. To require the Department of Education to conduct a study of recovery high school programs for students recovering from substance abuse and dependence.

### **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](mailto: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 S.B. No. 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.

**Proposed S.B. No. 811** AN ACT CONCERNING PARITY IN HOSPITAL SALES OVERSIGHT. To establish a consistent and fair process for hospital sale oversight by treating all sales equally.

**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.

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

**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. 6285** AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKING IN MOTOR VEHICLES. To protect children from secondhand smoke.

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

**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.

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2015**

The Human Services Committee will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 12, 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

**H.B. No. 6946** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING HUSKY PROGRAMS. To make technical and other changes to statutes referencing HUSKY health programs.

**H.B. No. 6947** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING STATE CONTRACTS FOR HUMAN SERVICES. To ensure uniform and adequate reimbursement for private providers of health and human services who enter into contracts with state agencies.

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015**

The Judiciary Committee will hold a public hearing on **Friday, March 13, 2015** at **10:30 A.M.** in **Room 2C** of the LOB. Public speaker order will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 8:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. in Room 2500 of the LOB. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. Please submit 50 copies of written testimony to Committee staff any day prior to the hearing but no later than 9:30 A.M. in Room 2500 of the LOB. Written testimony submitted by a person(s) or organization(s) which exceeds five (5) single-sided pages per bill or resolution will only be posted on the Judiciary Committee's website at the discretion of the Judiciary Committee chairs. Testimony received after the designated time may not be distributed until after the hearing. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to [JUDtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:JUDtestimony@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 may be made available on the Judiciary Committee's website and indexed by internet search engines.

SUBJECT MATTER: Palliative Use of Marijuana; Second Chance Society

**S.B. No. 952** AN ACT CONCERNING A SECOND CHANCE SOCIETY. To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

**S.B. No. 1064** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA. To: (1) Provide for licensure of medical marijuana laboratories; (2) provide for the establishment and approval of medical marijuana research programs; (3) provide legal immunity to nurses who administer medical marijuana; (4) allow licensed producers and dispensary facilities to sell and transport medical marijuana to licensed laboratories and health care facilities; (5) expand the definition of "qualifying patient"; and (6) ease restrictions on the membership of the Board of Physicians.

**S.B. No. 1066 (RAISED)** AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF RECIDIVISM. To study the feasibility of creating a special population within prisons to help inmates suffering from drug abuse, to encourage the Department of Correction to work with the municipality on a parolee's offender accountability plan before the parolee is released, and to provide resources to assist the program to address the needs of the Fresh Start reentry program.

### **BILLS VOTED OUT OF COMMITTEE**

**SB 284** AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES. To provide Medicaid coverage for chiropractic services.

**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.

**SB 878** AN ACT REQUIRING COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION OF NEW RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR OFFENDERS. To provide notice and the opportunity to be heard to municipalities wherein a residential program for offenders is proposed to be located.

**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.

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

**SB 1015** 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.

**HB 6391** AN ACT INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. To require the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Department of Veterans' Affairs to study state provided mental health services to members of the armed forces, veterans and their families.

**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.

**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.

**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.