



STATE OF CONNECTICUT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services



Legislative Update # 4

January 23, 2014

The Committees are beginning to scheduled public hearings and raise bills that may be of interest to the behavioral health community.

This update will flag bills of interest that have been raised, bills that have been filed by individual legislators **that may be raised by committees**, as well as provide information on a Human Services Committee Public hearing scheduled for next week.

Raised bills

SB 16 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND RELATED CONSULTATIONS. To require health insurance coverage for behavioral health assessments and health care provider consultations related to such assessments.

SB 18 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY HOARDING. 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 21 AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOID ANALGESICS. To require health insurance policies that provide coverage for prescription drugs to provide coverage for abuse-deterrent opioid analgesics on a basis no less favorable than for covered nonabuse-deterrent opioid analgesics.

SB 73 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL RECORDS. To make changes to the statutes concerning access to medical records and the fees charged for medical records to conform with changes in the health care industry.

HB 5259 AN ACT EXPANDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL OR NERVOUS CONDITIONS. To expand health insurance coverage for the treatment of mental or nervous conditions.

HB 5424 AN ACT PROHIBITING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO ABANDON RESIDENCY. To detect and stop fraud in the state's social services programs.

Bills of interest (not yet raised but community should be aware of legislative intent)

SB 18 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY HOARDING. 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 47 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON THE PROVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO YOUNG ADULTS. To establish a task force to study the availability and delivery of behavioral health services to young adults.

SB 170 AN ACT PROTECTING HOUSING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. To require that housing originally intended for senior citizens is not diverted to other tenants.

SB 192 AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTROCONVULSIVE THERAPY. To prohibit forced shock therapy treatment on citizens.

SB 203 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY RESIDENCES. To require community residences to comply with local zoning and land use regulations and ordinances.

SB 255 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AGE OF CONSENT FOR INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT. To increase the age of consent for inpatient mental health treatment to reflect the evolving understanding of child emotional and decision-making development and to ensure parents are notified of their children's serious mental health issues

SB 270 AN ACT CREATING A PILOT CONSERVATORSHIP PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES. To assist mentally ill persons by expanding the use of conservatorships.

SB 309 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES. To improve the quality and continuity of mental health services for children by giving jurisdiction over such services to the state's lead mental health agency.

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

HB 5056 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF AGE-RESTRICTED HOUSING. To protect age-restricted housing.

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

HB 5102 AN ACT CONCERNING PROHIBITING THE PRESCRIBING OF OPIATES TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF TWENTY-FIVE IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS. To prevent the prescribing of opiates to certain persons in certain situations.

HB 5259 AN ACT EXPANDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL OR NERVOUS CONDITIONS. To expand health insurance coverage for the treatment of mental or nervous conditions.

HB 5321 AN ACT CONCERNING DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND TO BENEFIT HEALTH PROGRAMS. To increase the amount of funds from the Tobacco Settlement Fund that are dedicated to health programs.

HB 5352 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION. To establish a public-private partnership commission to review and approve all public-private partnerships and to remove some of the current restrictions on public-private partnerships.

HB 5378 AN ACT CONCERNING VIDEO SLOT MACHINES AT CERTAIN OFF-TRACK BETTING FACILITIES. To protect the state gaming revenue by authoring the operation of video slot machines at certain off-track betting facilities.

HB 5389 AN ACT EXPANDING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. To better identify the mental health needs of veterans and active duty members of the armed forces by increasing state mental health resources.

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

HB 5483 AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF PROPOSED STATE AGENCY HOUSING FACILITIES. To require state agencies to conduct public hearings on proposals for housing facilities.

HB 5535 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHRONIC GAMBLERS TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION ACCOUNT. To fund the chronic gamblers treatment and rehabilitation account from lottery revenue to improve access to counseling services for chronic gamblers.

HB 5583 AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING FOR ELDERLY PERSONS. To ensure proper use of housing units.

HB 5598 AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT AUTHORITY TO ORDER A PERSON WITH A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OR MENTAL DISABILITY TO SUBMIT TO AN INVOLUNTARY MEDICAL EVALUATION. To provide a Probate Court with the authority to order a person with a substance use disorder or mental disability to submit to an involuntary medical evaluation.

HB 5606 AN ACT CONCERNING INPATIENT COMMITMENT OF SEX OFFENDERS WHO ARE A HIGH RISK FOR REOFFENDING. To ensure that violent sex offenders do not reoffend.

HB 5624 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. To expand access to mental health services.

HB 5778 AN ACT REQUIRING PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM. To prevent improper use of controlled substances.

HB 5880 AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES. To regionalize local efforts to address homelessness and behavioral health issues.

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

HB 5988 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF A MENTAL HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE AS PART OF A STUDENT HEALTH ASSESSMENT. To require parents or guardians to complete a mental health questionnaire as part of a student health assessment for purposes of having a doctor determine whether a student should be referred to a mental health specialist.

HB 6007 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR ALL SCHOOL PERSONNEL. To provide mental health first aid training to all school personnel.

HB 6137 AN ACT STREAMLINING THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR SUBSIDIZED HOUSING. To streamline the affordable housing application process by eliminating the need for persons to submit housing applications to numerous municipalities.

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 6278 AN ACT CONCERNING SOBER HOMES. To regulate sober homes.

HB 6301 AN ACT CREATING A DATABASE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PROHIBITED FROM PURCHASING OR POSSESSING A FIREARM DUE TO PSYCHIATRIC OR PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDER. To protect the public by creating a system that identifies individuals who should not be permitted to possess or purchase firearms due to psychiatric or psychological disorder.

Human Services Committee

THURSDAY, JANUARY, 29, 2015

The Human Services Committee will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.** in **Room 2A** of the LOB. Please submit 35 copies of written testimony to Committee staff at 1:00 P.M. in Room 2A 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. 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 Bills

*Proposed H.B. No. 5358 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR RESIDENTS OF CONTINUING-CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES.

*Proposed H.B. No. 5424 AN ACT PROHIBITING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO ABANDON RESIDENCY.

*Proposed H.B. No. 5430 AN ACT PROHIBITING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WHO ABANDON RESIDENCY.

*Proposed H.B. No. 5431 AN ACT CONCERNING FRAUDULENT CLAIMS FOR STATE ASSISTANCE.

*S.B. No. 280 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

*S.B. No. 282 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE.

*S.B. No. 283 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID.

*S.B. No. 284 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES.

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.