

# Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-807

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS'  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH

**Title:** STATUTES.

**Vote Date:** 3/1/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/11/2019

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

The Public Health Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill makes various technical changes to the Public Health statutes. Included in these revisions is an extension by one year, until January 1<sup>st</sup>, the reporting deadline for the task force studying the needs and services for adults with intellectual disabilities; an extension of six months, until October 1st, the deadline for dental assistants to pass the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) infection control examination; and the requirements necessary to use the title "social worker".

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Raul Pino, Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (DPH):** The Department is opposed to Section 13 of SB 807 that would limit the use of the title "social worker" to refer only to licensed clinical social workers and licensed master social workers. Permitting this provision would exclude any unlicensed individual who possesses a degree in social work but engages in non-clinical functions, such as policy, planning, or research from using the title social worker. The Department believes that this provision is overly restrictive.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA)** CHA understands that the intent of this legislation is to make technical corrections to the Public Health statutes, however has a concern regarding Section 13 of the bill. Language pertaining to the use of the term "social worker"

may have unintended consequences which could negatively impact the delivery of care provided by certain social workers primarily those not engaged in clinical functions.

**The following testimony is in support of Section 14 of SB 807:**

**Dr. Richard Philip Hung:** Dr. Hung supports SB 807, in particular Section 14, which would extend by six months, the on-the-job-training for dental assistants allowing more time to prepare for the Dental Assisting National Board's (DANB) infection control examination. This extension will allow the Connecticut State Dental Association, in collaboration with the University of Connecticut (UConn) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) to create a more appropriate alternative to the DANB examination. The DANB exam is needlessly difficult and heavily based in science and chemistry, concepts which are important, however, the test needs to be more practical. It is more effective for dental assistants to know proper infection control procedures which are not emphasized in the current exam. Flaws in the current exam make it needlessly difficult causing many highly qualified and competent assistants great difficulty in passing the exam. The result is extraordinarily high rates of failure and the potential for job losses. Dr. Hung strongly urges support of Section 14 in SB 807.

**Testimony submitted by the following individuals reflected the same positions as expressed above:**

- **Allen Hindin, DDS, MPH practicing in Danbury, CT**
- **DR. Michael Ungerleider practicing in Granbury, CT**
- **Dr. Jonathan Knapp, Bethel, CT**
- **Dr. Stephen Cagliostro, Westport and Norwalk, CT**
- **Dr. Annemarie DeLessio-Matta, Southbury, CT Pediatric Dentistry**
- **Dr. Laurence Levy, Middletown, CT**
- **Dr. David Fried, President CT Dental Association**
- **Dr. Gerald Alexander, New Haven, CT**
- **Richmond Hung, DDS, Milford, CT**
- **Dr. Jonathan Knapp, Bethel, CT**
- **DR. William Nash, Fairfield, CT**
- **Jeffrey Berkley, DDS, Meriden, CT**
- **Ronald Delfini, DDS, New Haven, CT**
- **Gary Linker, DDS. New Britain, CT**
- **Dr. John Parnoff. New Haven, CT**
- **Dr. Jennifer You, New Haven, CT**
- **Dr. Gary Pearl, Orange, CT**
- **Dr. Richard Riddle, Southington, CT**
- **DR. Al Natelli, Southington, CT**
- **Dr. Bruce Schecter, Milford, CT**
- **Dr. Gary Toubman, Newington, CT**
- **Sheldon Natkin, DDS, Woodbridge, CT**

**Tracy Wodatch, RN, VP of Clinical and Regulatory Services, The CT Association for Healthcare at Home:**

The Association represents over 60 state-licensed and Medicare-certified home health and hospice agencies which partner with both the CT Department of Public Health and the CT Department of Social Services. The Association is in support of SB 807 with an additional recommendation for an amendment to “CGS 19a-490-Licensing of Institutions: Definitions, sections (d) and (f). The amendment “removes the term “Homemaker-home health aide” and replaces it with “Home Health Aide Services”. The DPH and the Association agree to this amendment and ask that the Public Health Committee add this change to the language of the bill.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Michelle Kenefick, LCSW, SEP, President, National Association of Social Workers**

**(NASW):** The NASW opposes Section 13 of SB 807. This section would prohibit an individual who possesses a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree, currently awarded by 7 Connecticut colleges and Universities, as well as, an individual with a Master’s degree in Social Work (MSW) not practicing in a clinical setting, from using the term “social worker”. While the Association appreciates the intent of the bill to protect the title of “social worker”, there are other bills proposed which they support that would cover all individuals with an accredited degree in social work.

**Testimony submitted by the following individuals expressed the same positions:**

- **Emily McCave, PhD, MSW, LMSW, Associate Professor of Social Work  
Quinnipiac University**
- **Stephanie A. Jacobson, PhD, MSW, LCSW, Assistant Professor of Social Work  
Quinnipiac University.**
- **Laura Mutrie, MSW, LCSW, Director of Field Education/ Clinical Assistant  
Professor, Quinnipiac University.**

**Reported by: Kathleen Panazza**

**Date: March 7, 2019**