

Insurance and Real Estate Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1044

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY INSURANCE AND

Title: HEALTH CARE IN THIS STATE.

Vote Date: 3/22/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/18/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To understand the market place, competition and regulation of insurance as it relates to healthcare. The taskforce will allow further understanding of the insurance industry to make informed policy recommendations for Connecticut residents.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Ted Doolittle, Office of the Healthcare Advocate requested that the task force include the Healthcare advocate or his/her designees as an *ex officio* member of the task force.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ellen Andrews, PhD, Executive Director, CT Health Policy Project supports the bill as it will measure the impact of a changing market and will allow recommendations to protect consumers. One of the main drivers of healthcare costs is consolidation which drives up costs

without improving quality. While Connecticut has adopted measures to promote competition in the market, more needs to be done. There also needs to be an improvement on regulatory review and approval of healthcare mergers and acquisitions. Thus, the study and discussion of a task force with diverse will allow for best policy reconditions to make health care more affordable.

Connecticut Hospital Association supports the bill and respectfully requests that the language be amended to include a hospital representative on the task force, appointed in consultation with the CHA.

Connecticut Association of Health Plans respectfully flagged the bill and would like input from the health insurance industry and would like to continue the dialogue.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Eric George, President, Insurance Association of Connecticut opposed the bill as insurance is highly regulated and under intense scrutiny by their regulators and the Connecticut Department of Insurance.

Rory Whelan, Regional Vice President, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies opposed the bill due to the ambiguity of the scope and purpose of the bill. They request that any task force charged with reviewing the property and casualty insurance ecosystem in CT include industry representation.

Reported by: Christina Cruz

Date: 04/05/2021