



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 535

February Session, 2022

Substitute Senate Bill No. 477

Senate, April 19, 2022

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF RESIDENTS OF THE STATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study assisted living services agencies that provide services as a
3 dementia special care unit or program, as defined in section 19a-562 of
4 the general statutes. Such study shall include, but need not be limited
5 to, an examination of (1) the regulation of such agencies by the
6 Department of Public Health and whether additional oversight by the
7 department is required, (2) whether minimum staffing levels for such
8 agencies should be required, and (3) the maintenance of records by such
9 agencies of meals served to, bathing of, administration of medication to
10 and the overall health of each resident.

11 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

12 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

- 13 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 14 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
15 Representatives;
- 16 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 17 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
18 Representatives;
- 19 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and
- 20 (7) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
21 designee.
- 22 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
23 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
24 of the General Assembly.
- 25 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
26 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
27 be filled by the appointing authority.
- 28 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
29 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
30 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
31 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
32 days after the effective date of this section.
- 33 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
34 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
35 health shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 36 (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report
37 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
38 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
39 health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
40 statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such
41 report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

42 Sec. 2. Section 19a-59i of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes
43 is amended by adding subsection (g) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

44 (NEW) (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the maternal mortality
45 review committee shall develop educational materials regarding:

46 (1) The health and safety of pregnant and postpartum persons with
47 mental health disorders, including, but not limited to, perinatal mood
48 and anxiety disorders, for distribution by the Department of Public
49 Health to each birthing hospital in the state. As used in this subdivision,
50 "birthing hospital" means a health care facility, as defined in section 19a-
51 630, operated and maintained in whole or in part for the purpose of
52 caring for patients during the delivery of a child and for a postpartum
53 person and such person's newborn following birth;

54 (2) Evidence-based screening tools for screening patients for intimate
55 partner violence, peripartum mood disorders and substance use
56 disorder for distribution by the Department of Public Health to
57 obstetricians and other health care providers who practice obstetrics;
58 and

59 (3) Indicators of intimate partner violence for distribution by the
60 Department of Public Health to (A) hospitals for use by health care
61 providers in the emergency department and hospital social workers,
62 and (B) obstetricians and other health care providers who practice
63 obstetrics.

64 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section,
65 "birthing hospital" means a health care facility, as defined in section 19a-
66 630 of the general statutes, operated and maintained in whole or in part
67 for the purpose of caring for a person during the delivery of a child and
68 for a postpartum person and such person's newborn following birth.

69 (b) On and after October 1, 2022, each birthing hospital shall provide
70 to each patient who has undergone a caesarean section written
71 information regarding the importance of mobility following a caesarean
72 section and the risks associated with immobility following a caesarean

73 section.

74 (c) Not later than January 1, 2023, each birthing hospital shall
75 establish a patient portal through which a postpartum patient can
76 virtually access, through an Internet web site or application, any
77 educational materials and other information that the birthing hospital
78 provided to the patient during the patient's stay at the birthing hospital
79 and at the time of the patient's discharge from the birthing hospital.

80 (d) On and after January 1, 2023, each birthing hospital shall provide
81 to each postpartum patient the educational materials regarding the
82 health and safety of pregnant and postpartum persons with mental
83 health disorders, including, but not limited to, perinatal mood and
84 anxiety disorders, developed by the maternal mortality review
85 committee pursuant to subsection (g) of section 19a-59i of the general
86 statutes, as amended by this act.

87 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-29a of the 2022 supplement to the
88 general statutes is amended by adding subdivisions (104) and (105) as
89 follows (*Effective from passage*):

90 (NEW) (104) Maternal Mental Health Month. The Governor shall
91 proclaim the month of May of each year to be Maternal Mental Health
92 Month, to raise awareness of issues surrounding maternal mental
93 health. Suitable exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere
94 as the Governor designates for the observance of the month.

95 (NEW) (105) Maternal Mental Health Day. The Governor shall
96 proclaim May fifth of each year to be Maternal Mental Health Day, to
97 raise awareness of issues surrounding maternal mental health. Suitable
98 exercises may be held in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the
99 Governor designates for the observance of the day.

100 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
101 Commission on Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention to
102 coordinate the funding and implementation of evidence-based,
103 evidenced-informed, community-centric gun programs and strategies

104 to reduce community gun violence in the state. The commission shall be
105 part of the Legislative Department.

106 (b) The commission shall be composed of the following members:

107 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
108 one of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut Hospital
109 Association and one of whom shall be a representative of Compass
110 Youth Collaborative;

111 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
112 whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut Violence Intervention
113 Program and one of whom shall be a representative of the Regional
114 Youth Adult Social Action Partnership;

115 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
116 Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of Hartford
117 Communities That Care, Inc. and one of whom shall be a representative
118 of CT Against Gun Violence;

119 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
120 shall be a representative of Project Longevity and one of whom shall be
121 a representative of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center;

122 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
123 Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of Yale New
124 Haven Hospital and one of whom shall be a representative of the
125 Greater Bridgeport Adolescence Program;

126 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom
127 shall be a representative of Hartford Hospital and one of whom shall be
128 a youth representative of the Connecticut Justice Alliance;

129 (7) Two appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing
130 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
131 relating to public health, one of whom shall be a representative of the
132 Greater Bridgeport Area Prevention Program and one of whom shall be
133 a parent member of the Two Generation Initiative;

134 (8) Two appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing
135 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
136 relating to public health, one of whom shall be a representative of
137 Mothers United Against Violence and one of whom shall be a
138 representative of Violent Crime Survivors;

139 (9) One appointed by the executive director of the Commission on
140 Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, who shall be a
141 representative of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention;

142 (10) Two appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health, who shall
143 be representatives of the Department of Public Health's Injury and
144 Violence Surveillance Unit;

145 (11) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
146 and

147 (12) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
148 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.

149 (c) Any member of the commission appointed under subdivision (1),
150 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or (8) of subsection (b) of this section may be a
151 member of the General Assembly. All initial appointments to the
152 commission shall be made not later than sixty days after the effective
153 date of this section. Appointed members shall serve a term that is
154 coterminous with the appointing official and may serve more than one
155 term.

156 (d) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
157 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee,
158 shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held
159 not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. At such
160 meeting, the chairperson of the commission shall be elected from among
161 the members of the commission.

162 (e) If an appointment under subsection (b) of this section is not made
163 within the sixty-day period required under subsection (c) of this section,
164 the chairperson may designate an individual with the required

165 qualifications stated for the applicable appointment to serve on the
166 commission until an appointment is made pursuant to subsection (b) of
167 this section.

168 (f) A majority of the membership of the commission shall constitute
169 a quorum for the transaction of any business and any decision shall be
170 by a majority vote of those present at a meeting, except the commission
171 may establish such subcommissions, advisory groups or other entities
172 as it deems necessary to further the purposes of the commission. The
173 commission shall adopt rules of procedure.

174 (g) The members of the commission shall serve without
175 compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be
176 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
177 their duties.

178 (h) The commission, by majority vote, shall hire an executive director,
179 who shall serve at the pleasure of the commission to carry out the duties
180 and serve as administrative staff of the commission. The commission
181 may request the assistance of the Joint Commission on Legislative
182 Management in hiring the executive director. The executive director
183 may hire not more than two executive assistants to assist in carrying out
184 the duties and serving as administrative staff of the commission. The
185 administrative staff of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors,
186 Equity and Opportunity shall serve as administrative staff of the
187 commission until such time as such executive director is hired.

188 (i) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: (1)
189 Coordinate the funding and implementation of evidence-based,
190 evidenced-informed, community-centric programs and strategies to
191 reduce community gun violence in the state; (2) secure state, federal and
192 other funds for the purposes of reducing community gun violence; (3)
193 determine community-level needs by engaging with communities
194 impacted by gun violence; (4) (A) establish and implement a grant
195 program, and (B) award grants and offer guidance to organizations or
196 other entities working toward reducing community gun violence in the
197 state; (5) obtain from any legislative or executive department, board,

198 commission or other agency of the state or any organization or other
 199 entity such assistance as necessary and available to carry out the
 200 purposes of this section; (6) accept any gift, donation or bequest for the
 201 purpose of performing the duties described in this subsection; (7)
 202 establish bylaws to govern its procedures; and (8) perform such other
 203 acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties
 204 described in this subsection.

205 (j) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
 206 commission shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the
 207 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
 208 health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 209 statutes, concerning the activities of the commission during the prior
 210 twelve-month period.

211 Sec. 6. (Effective July 1, 2022) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand
 212 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Public Health Fund, for the
 213 fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for promotion of the National Centers
 214 for Disease Control and Prevention's "Hear Her" campaign to prevent
 215 pregnancy-related deaths to obstetricians, other health care providers
 216 who practice obstetrics, birthing hospitals and emergency departments.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	19a-59i
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10-29a(a)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 5(d), the phrase, "or the executive director's designee" was added for consistency with the provisions of section 5(b)(12).

PH Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill establishes a task force to study assisted living services agencies that provide services as a dementia special care unit or program. The task force shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2023.

This bill has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for task force members.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 477*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF RESIDENTS OF THE STATE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes the following unrelated changes in the public health statutes:

1. establishes a nine-member task force to study the regulation and staffing levels of assisted living services agencies (ALSAs) that provide services as dementia special care units or programs and requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2023 (§ 1);
2. requires the Department of Public Health's (DPH's) Maternal Mortality Review Committee to develop educational materials on intimate partner violence and pregnant and postpartum persons with mental health disorders, which DPH must distribute to specified hospitals and health care providers (§ 2);
3. requires birthing hospitals (a) starting October 1, 2022, to provide caesarean section patients with written information on the importance of mobility following the procedure and (b) starting January 1, 2023, to provide postpartum patients certain educational materials and establish a patient portal for them to virtually access any educational materials and information provided to the patients during their stay or discharge (§ 3);
4. designates the month of May as "Maternal Mental Health Month" and each May 5 as "Maternal Health Day," and allows suitable exercises to be held at the Capitol and other locations the

governor designates (§ 4);

5. establishes a 21-member Commission on Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention within the Legislative Department to coordinate strategies and programs to reduce gun violence in the state and requires the commission to annually report to the Public Health Committee on its activities (§ 5); and
6. appropriates \$250,000 to DPH in FY 23 to promote the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Hear Her" campaign to prevent pregnancy-related deaths to birthing hospitals, emergency departments, and obstetricians and other providers who practice obstetrics (§ 6).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provisions (1) requiring birthing hospitals to provide patients with certain educational materials and establish a patient portal and (2) appropriating funds to DPH in FY 23 take effect July 1, 2022.

§ 1 — ALSA TASK FORCE

Duties

The bill establishes a nine-member task force to study ALSAs that provide services as a dementia special care units or programs. The study must examine (1) DPH regulation of these agencies and whether additional department oversight is required, (2) whether minimum staffing levels should be required, and (3) agencies' maintenance of records on meals served to, bathing of, medication administration to, and overall health of residents.

Membership

Under the bill, the task force consists of the following nine members:

1. two each appointed by the Senate president pro tempore and House speaker;
2. one each appointed by the Senate and House majority and minority leaders; and

3. the DPH commissioner or her designee.

Under the bill, appointing authorities must make their initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage and fill any vacancies. Appointed members may be legislators.

The bill requires the Senate president pro tempore and House speaker to select the task force chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule the first meeting to be held within 60 days after the bill's passage.

Under the bill, the Public Health Committee's administrative staff serve as the task force's administrative staff.

Report

The bill requires the task force, by January 1, 2023, to report its findings and recommendations to the Public Health Committee. The task force terminates on the date it submits the report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.

§ 2 — MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

By law, a Maternal Mortality Review Committee within DPH conducts multidisciplinary reviews of maternal deaths to identify associated factors and make recommendations to reduce these deaths. The bill requires the committee, by January 1, 2023, to develop educational materials on the following topics:

1. the health and safety of pregnant and postpartum persons with mental health disorders, including perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, for DPH to distribute to each birthing hospital in the state;
2. evidence-based screening tools for screening patients for intimate partner violence, peripartum mood disorders, and substance use disorder, for DPH to distribute to obstetricians and other health care providers who practice obstetrics; and

3. indicators of intimate partner violence for DPH to distribute to (a) hospitals for emergency department health care providers to use and (b) obstetricians and other health care providers who practice obstetrics.

Under the bill, “birthing hospital” means a facility wholly or partially operated to care for patients during child delivery and postpartum persons and their newborns following birth.

§ 3 — BIRTHING HOSPITALS

The bill requires birthing hospitals, starting October 1, 2022, to provide each patient who has undergone a caesarean section written information on the importance of mobility and the associated risks of immobility following the procedure.

By January 1, 2023, the bill requires birthing hospitals to establish a patient portal where a postpartum patient can virtually access, through the internet or an application, any educational materials and information that the hospital provided the patient during his or her hospital stay and discharge.

Also starting by this date, the bill requires birth hospitals to provide each postpartum patient the Maternal Mortality Review Committee’s educational materials on the health and safety of pregnant and postpartum persons with mental health disorders, as described above.

§ 5 — COMMISSION ON GUN VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

Duties

The bill establishes a Commission on Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention to do the following:

1. coordinate the funding and implementation of evidence-based, evidence-informed, community-centric programs and strategies to reduce community gun violence in the state;
2. secure state, federal, and other funds to reduce community gun

- violence;
3. determine community-level needs by engaging communities impacted by gun violence;
 4. establish and implement a grant program, including awarding grants and offering guidance to organizations working on similar goals;
 5. obtain any necessary and available assistance from any legislative or executive department, board, or commission; other state agency; or any organization or entity to carry out its duties;
 6. accept any gift, donation, or bequest to perform its duties;
 7. establish bylaws to govern its procedures; and
 8. perform other necessary and appropriate acts to carry out its duties.

Membership

Under the bill, the commission consists of the following 21 members:

1. one representative each from the Connecticut Hospital Association and Compass Youth Collaborative, appointed by the House speaker;
2. one representative each from the Connecticut Violence Intervention Program and Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership, appointed by the Senate president pro tempore;
3. one representative each from Hartford Communities That Care, Inc. and CT Against Gun Violence, appointed by the House majority leader;
4. one representative each from Project Longevity and the Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, appointed by the Senate majority leader;

5. one representative each from Yale New Haven Hospital and the Greater Bridgeport Adolescence Program, appointed by the House minority leader;
6. one representative of Hartford Hospital and one youth representative of the Connecticut Justice Alliance, appointed by the Senate minority leader;
7. one representative of the Greater Bridgeport Area Prevention Program and one parent member of the Two Generation Initiative, appointed by the Public Health Committee House chairperson;
8. one representative each from Mothers United Against Violence and Violent Crime Survivors, appointed by the Public Health Committee Senate chairperson;
9. one representative of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention, appointed by the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's (CWCSEO) executive director;
10. two representatives of DPH's Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit, appointed by the DPH commissioner; and
11. the education commissioner and CWCSEO executive director or their designees.

The bill requires appointing authorities to make initial appointments within 60 days after the bill's passage. If an appointment is not made, the commission chairperson may designate a person with the required qualifications to serve on the commission until an appointment is made.

Under the bill, members appointed by the legislative leaders and Public Health Committee chairpersons may be legislators. Appointed members serve a term that is coterminous with the appointing authority's and may serve more than one term.

Leadership and Meetings

The bill requires the CWCSEO executive director to schedule the commission’s first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill’s passage. At this meeting, the chairperson must be elected from the commission members.

Under the bill, a majority of commission members constitutes a quorum for transacting business. Any decision must be made by a majority of members present at the meeting, except that the commission may establish subcommissions, advisory groups, or other entities it deems necessary to further its purposes. It also requires the commission to adopt procedural rules.

Commission members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed within available funds for necessary expenses in performing their duties.

Executive Director

The bill requires the commission, by majority vote, to hire an executive director to serve as its administrative staff and carry out its duties. It may request assistance from the Joint Commission on Legislative Management in doing so.

Under the bill, the executive director serves at the pleasure of the commission and may hire up to two executive assistants. The CWCSEO’s administrative staff must serve in that capacity for the commission until the executive director is hired.

Report

The bill requires the commission, starting by January 1, 2023, to annually report to the Public Health Committee on its activities during the prior 12 months.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 27 Nay 3 (03/30/2022)