

# Insurance and Real Estate Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-377

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR NEWBORNS.

**Vote Date:** 3/22/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/17/2022

**File No.:** 358

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### **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

### **REASONS FOR BILL:**

When a child is born, they may have a complicated medical situation which requires an extended hospital stay. There have been concerns of insurance not covering all the costs if a newborn needs an extended stay for medical reasons, of which hospitals often bear the cost due to lack of enrollment. The bill provides automatic coverage, while also allowing parents time to figure out the complexities of insurance enrollment.

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

None stated.

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

James E. Moore, President, Connecticut Children's is **supportive** of automatic coverage for newborns as navigating the complexities of enrollment is often the last thing on a parent's mind when their newborn is receiving care in a NICU. He is pleased that this bill provides automatic coverage not only for the first 120 days of a newborn's life but also for the entire length of a hospital stay should a baby's medical needs require a stay behind 120 days. This policy will significantly ease the financial burdens for the patients, the hospital, and, ultimately, the State of Connecticut taxpayers.

### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

Connecticut Association of Health Plans urges the committee to take no action on S.B. 377. Current law already requires that health insurers cover health insurance for newly born children from the moment of birth through sixty- one days after the date of birth allowing parents the time necessary to formally enroll the child under the appropriate health plan.

David Godbout **opposes** the bill.

**Reported by:** Daniil Toropov

**Date:** 3/24/2022