



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 166

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6707

House of Representatives, March 22, 2023

The Committee on Housing reported through REP. LUXENBERG of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE AND APPROPRIATING STATE FUNDS FOR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER HOUSING PROGRAMS AND REENTRY CENTERS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes described in
2 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the
3 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state
4 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the
5 aggregate five million dollars.

6 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
7 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department
8 of Developmental Services for the purpose of providing grants-in-aid to
9 private nonprofit organizations for supportive housing for persons with
10 intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder, or both.

11 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise
12 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the

13 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
14 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
15 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
16 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in
17 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
18 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
19 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
20 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
21 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
22 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
23 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
24 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
25 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
26 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
27 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
28 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
29 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
30 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
31 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
32 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
33 such principal and interest as the same become due.

34 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of
35 Developmental Services shall, in collaboration with the Commissioners
36 of Housing and Correction and, within available appropriations, plan,
37 develop and administer a comprehensive program for community-
38 based group homes for persons with intellectual disabilities reentering
39 society from the correctional system. Such program shall also provide
40 supportive services for such persons, which may include, but need not
41 be limited to, assistance with daily living tasks, transportation
42 assistance, medical care and job training.

43 (b) The Commissioner of Developmental Services shall adopt
44 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
45 carry out the provisions of this section.

46 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The sum of five million dollars is
 47 appropriated to the Department of Developmental Services from the
 48 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, for the planning
 49 and development of a program for community-based group homes for
 50 persons with intellectual disabilities reentering society from the
 51 correctional system pursuant to section 2 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 3, a reference to "section 2 of this act" was added for clarity.

HSG *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:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$	Outyears \$
Developmental Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	5 million	See Below	See Below
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below	7.8 million total

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 authorizes \$5 million in General Obligation bonding in order to provide grants to private nonprofit organizations for supportive housing for persons with intellectual disabilities and or autism spectrum disorder (IDASH), to be administered by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS)¹. To the extent bonds are fully allocated and expended, total debt service is expected to be approximately \$7.8 million over the 20-year duration of the bonds.

As a March 1, 2023, the unallocated balance available for this purpose through the Department of Housing is just over \$1.5 million.

Section 2 requires DDS, in collaboration with the Department of Housing and the Department of Correction, to plan, develop and administer a comprehensive program for group homes for persons with intellectual disabilities reentering society from the correctional system.

¹ The DDS Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder Housing (IDASH) program was established to integrate affordable, supportive housing units in larger developments.

The number of individuals fitting the criteria for the reentry program is not known at this time. The average annual projected cost of a DDS group home residential placement is approximately \$112,000 per person. DDS currently has a waiting list for residential services.² Each year there are vacancies in the existing group home inventory that are used to provide services and take individuals off the waiting list.

The bill also requires the program to provide other services including job training and transportation. The average annual projected cost of a DDS employment and day program³ is approximately \$27,000. This results in an average per person cost of \$139,000 for the services required under the bill. For purposes of an example, for every 10 individuals eligible for the reentry program, the annual cost would be approximately \$1.4 million.

Section 3 of the bill appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to DDS for FY 24 to plan and develop the reentry program. The development of a new group home is estimated to take the agency five years and requires capital costs that cannot be determined at this time. These costs are based on the location and size of the home and the necessary accessibility requirements. Typically group home development requires the use of bond funds.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

² As of January 2023, there were 685 individuals on the DDS waiting list who currently receive no residential services and need services.

³ Day services typically include a day or employment program and transportation. There is currently no DDS waiting list for employment and day services.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6707

AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE AND APPROPRIATING STATE FUNDS FOR INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER HOUSING PROGRAMS AND REENTRY CENTERS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) commissioner, within available appropriations and in collaboration with the correction and housing commissioners, to plan, develop, and administer a comprehensive program for community-based group homes for people with intellectual disabilities reentering the community from the correctional system. Under the bill, the program must provide supportive services to them, including at a minimum:

1. assistance with daily living tasks,
2. transportation,
3. medical care, and
4. job training.

The bill requires the DDS commissioner to adopt related program regulations and appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to DDS for FY 24 to plan and develop the program.

It also authorizes up to \$5 million of state general obligation (GO) bonds for DDS to provide grants to private nonprofits for supportive housing for people with intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except the provision establishing the

community-based group homes program takes effect October 1, 2023.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Housing Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 0 (02/28/2023)