



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 312**

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6741

*House of Representatives, March 29, 2023*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PATIENTS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) Not later than January 1,  
2 2024, the Department of Public Health shall develop a marketing  
3 campaign and make monthly public service announcements on its  
4 Internet web site and social media accounts and any radio station and  
5 television station broadcasting to persons in the state, regarding  
6 mistreatment of health care providers and encouraging public civility in  
7 health care settings.

8 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) There is established a hospital  
9 security grant program which shall be administered by the Office of  
10 Policy and Management. Grants shall be made to hospitals for securing  
11 all areas of the hospital or for other measures to ensure the safety of  
12 hospital health care providers, hospital staff and patients. The Secretary  
13 of the Office of Policy and Management shall adopt regulations in

14 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes for the administration  
 15 of the grant program under this section, including the establishment of  
 16 priorities, program categories, eligibility requirements, funding  
 17 limitations and the application process.

18 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) Each hospital may establish  
 19 policies and procedures related to health care provider, staff and patient  
 20 safety that govern when the hospital may require a patient receiving  
 21 nonemergency health care to leave the hospital if, due to the patient's  
 22 behavior or conduct while in the hospital, allowing the patient to remain  
 23 in the hospital to receive such nonemergency health care would threaten  
 24 the safety of a health care provider, staff member or another patient at  
 25 the hospital.

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

**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:**

| Agency Affected                                  | Fund-Effect | FY 24 \$ | FY 25 \$  |
|--|-------------|----------|-----------|
| Public Health, Dept.                             | GF - Cost   | 785,000  | 1,320,000 |
| Policy & Mgmt., Off.                             | GF - Cost   | 120,100  | 234,400   |
| State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup> | GF - Cost   | 48,700   | 99,900    |

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

**Section 1** requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop a marketing campaign by 1/1/24 that includes monthly public service announcements on radio and television about the mistreatment of healthcare providers, encouraging public civility in healthcare settings, which results in a cost to the agency of \$785,000 in FY 24 and \$1,320,000 in FY 25. There is a one-time cost for the production of the radio and television public service announcements of \$125,000 in FY 24 only, a cost of \$600,000 in FY 24 and \$1,200,000 in FY 25 for radio and television airtime, and an adverting agency cost of \$60,000 in FY 24 and \$120,000 in FY 25 for monthly reports analyzing the effectiveness of the campaign.

**Section 2** creates a Hospital Security Grant Program within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). This results in a General Fund cost

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

of approximately \$168,800 in FY 24 and \$334,300 in FY 25 for administration of the new program, and an additional cost for the grants. The cost and the timing of the grants is unknown; the bill does not appropriate funds for the grants.

Of the administration costs, \$120,100 in FY 24 and \$234,400 in FY 25 are to OPM for staffing, training, and supplies, and \$48,700 in FY 24 and \$99,900 in FY 25 are to the Office of the State Comptroller for associated fringe benefits. The costs to OPM include three staff at a 50% phase-in in FY 24 with salary costs of \$113,800, with annualized personnel costs fully realized in FY 25 at \$234,400. The estimated costs also include \$6,300 for training, supplies, and a one-time computer cost in FY 24, and annualized costs of \$1,000 in FY 25.

**Section 3** allows hospitals to establish policies and procedures related to healthcare provider, staff, and patient safety, which is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.

### ***The Out Years***

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

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6741**

***AN ACT IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PATIENTS.***

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), by January 1, 2024, to develop a marketing campaign and make monthly public service announcements on the mistreatment of health care providers and encouraging public civility in health care settings. DPH must make the announcements on its website and social media accounts as well as any radio and television stations broadcasting to Connecticut residents.

The bill also establishes a Hospital Security Grant Program administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The program must administer grants to hospitals for securing all areas of the hospital, or for other measures to ensure the safety of hospital providers, staff, and patients. OPM must adopt regulations to administer the grant program that include establishing priorities, program categories, eligibility requirements, funding limitations, and the application process.

Additionally, the bill authorizes hospitals to establish policies and procedures on health care provider, staff, and patient safety. These policies and procedures must govern when the hospital may require a patient receiving nonemergency care to leave the hospital, if the patient's behavior or conduct would threaten the safety of other patients, health care providers, or staff if the patient was allowed to stay to receive care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/20/2023)