

# Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-6775

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATED REPORTERS.

**Vote Date:** 3/21/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/28/2023

**File No.:**

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## SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

## REASONS FOR BILL:

Vulnerable senior citizens are at risk of elder abuse, exploitation, maltreatment, and neglect. At times, there are some instances where cases are not reported, leaving seniors with trauma in the aftermath of these incidents. The Protective Services for the Elderly (PSE) program through the Department of Social Services was created to ensure that reports of elder maltreatment and allegations of abuse are investigated, and measures are taken to protect vulnerable senior citizens. Mandated reporters are frequently in contact with elders and are in a position where they often hear about the neglect and abuse. This bill will add certain professionals to the designated list of mandated reporters, thereby providing continued crucial support to senior citizens across Connecticut.

## SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language in this bill changes reference to “employees” of Housing Authorities and municipal developments to “residential services coordinators, clinical care coordinators and managerial employees”.

## RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**Department of Social Services (DSS), Commissioner, Andrea Barton-Reeves:** supports this bill stating currently the designated mandated reporters include but are not limited to social workers, nurses, physicians, dentists, psychologists, and police officers. It is stated that to provide additional protections for elderly vulnerable residents of Connecticut, DSS has identified several additional professions to be added to the list of mandated reporters that already have regular contact with the elder population. It is stated the proposed professions

are dental hygienists; adult probation officers; adult parole officers; physician assistants; residential service coordinators; and employees at housing authorities, municipal developments, and elderly housing projects.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Fairfield Senior Advocates, William Lenahan;** supports this bill stating having additional mandated reporters trained to identify and report warning signs will further protect vulnerable seniors.

**LeadingAge Connecticut, President, Mag Morelli;** supports this bill stating the proposal to add additional mandated reporters will help the older population experience suspected abuse, abandonment, neglect, or exploitation.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**One person submitted testimony anonymously in opposition to this bill.**

Reported by: Kelly Houston

Date: March 28, 2023