

# Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-956

AN ACT REQUIRING DISCHARGE STANDARDS REGARDING FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENTS AND PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS FOR PATIENTS BEING

**Title:** DISCHARGED FROM A HOSPITAL OR NURSING HOME FACILITY.

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

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/22/2023

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Public Health Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The need for the exchange of information at all transitions of care at time of discharge, particularly from the hospital to other levels of care, is extremely important for continuity of care. This bill requires the information exchange, including follow up appointments and prescription medications, as part of the discharge process.

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

### **Mairead Painter, State of CT Long Term Care Ombudsperson:**

Ensuring follow up appointments can provide for continuity of care and prevent complications that may arise after discharge- particularly important for patients with chronic medical conditions. Ensuring that residents have access to medications is crucial to maintain health and preventing unnecessary hospital re-admissions. Requiring discharge standards can prevent medication errors, ensuring that residents receive accurate medications and dosages.

### **Martha Marx, State Senator, 20<sup>th</sup> District, CT General Assembly**

The bill will improve re-admission rates and improve outcomes. Improving discharge standards will save lives. Current experience is that patients, particularly psychiatric patients, are discharged home with a limited supply of medications to help maintain them while they wait months for an appointment. Improving the discharge standards around medication

prescriptions will provide pharmacies with more details on medication needs and ensure patients get the intended dosages and delivery pathways. Patient outcomes and satisfaction will improve with passage of this bill.

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

##### **Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut**

Current nursing home regulations require a safe discharge and have very detailed processes to ensure that the continuity of care is maintained in follow up situations. This bill prescribes an elevation in the discharge process standards, and we are eager to explore ways to improve the transitions.

##### **David Wu, Reg. Pharmacist and Owner, Simply Pharmacy**

Having observed gaps in transitions of care, he strongly supports elevating the requirements of discharge standards. Issues with new medications, prior authorizations, and new medication costs can be minimized with improved discharge standards addressing discharge prescriptions.

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

##### **Connecticut Hospital Association**

Including precise information on follow up appointments, date and location, at the time of discharge (lines 33-37) may not be possible as for the complete medication list requirement (lines 50-52), the hospital can only provide the medications administered within the hospital and cannot be held accountable for validity of patient medications taken prior to the admission. Federal law covers discharge planning and information, and SB 956 is not needed.

##### **Matt Barrett, President and CEO, CAHCF/CCAL**

The requirements prescribed in SB 956 are consistent with current rules and best practices for nursing home patients discharged to home settings and, therefore, the bill is not necessary. Also, because nursing homes are not currently authorized to transmit prescriptions to pharmacies, language should be added to advise the resident's provider to transit prescriptions to the resident's pharmacy.

**Reported by: David Rackliffe, Assistant Clerk**

**Date: March 10, 2023**