

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1175

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

Vote Date: 3/21/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/16/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The Medicaid program provides crucial services to those in need throughout Connecticut. Therefore, it is important to ensure that these services are provided at an efficient rate and that opportunities are found to streamline eligibility determinations to keep individuals enrolled in the Medicaid program. This bill would require the Commissioner of Social Services to conduct a study on the efficiency of the state medical assistance program and determine opportunities to continue to assist the state's Medicaid enrollees.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None stated.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Hospital Association; supports this bill stating its focus on ensuring optimized methods for the state to enroll those eligible for Medicaid and for them to maintain enrollment without interruption. It is stated that the bill should include methods of streamlining enrollment through no-cost coverage through Access Health CT. It is also stated the state should go through special measures to assure that those do not lose coverage through the unwinding of the pandemic and that many will be subject to redetermination.

Health Equity Solutions, Director of Policy, Karen Siegel; supports this bill stating the continuing efforts to advance a state-run social service that would improve the process for enrollees and increase efficiency. It is stated that providing services to individuals in the state in an optimized way increases efficiency and reduces cost while providing uninterrupted care.

NP Business Consultants, LLC, Nurse Practitioner, Lynn Rapsilber; supports this bill stating nurse practitioners work with many Medicaid patients and welcomes the results of the study.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None stated.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF GENERAL COMMENTS:

SWAA CT NOW, Member, Margaret Goodwin; takes no positions on this bill and urges the need for simplification and streamlining of the process. It is stated without streamlining the process, DSS will have increased difficulty and coverage may be delayed.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: March 29, 2023