



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5001**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of  
2 Developmental Services shall establish, within available appropriations,  
3 a Transition Academy for Independent Living program to provide  
4 transitional tools and life skills development for intellectually or  
5 developmentally disabled participants who are at least twenty-two  
6 years of age for the purpose of preparing participants to transition from  
7 (1) the kindergarten through grade twelve education system, or (2)  
8 living with parents or guardians to living independently or quasi-  
9 independently through a residential program administered by the  
10 Department of Developmental Services.

11 (b) The Transition Academy for Independent Living program shall  
12 (1) be between three to six months in duration, depending on the  
13 individual needs of the participant and the availability of Department  
14 of Developmental Services resources, (2) include a residential  
15 component for each participant, (3) to the extent possible and  
16 appropriate, utilize property currently owned by the Department of  
17 Developmental Services, (4) include family-centered practices for  
18 participants with parents or guardians, and (5) include a nonresidential

19 component for parents and guardians to acclimate participants to  
20 residential programs administered by the department.

21 (c) The Commissioner of Developmental Services may establish  
22 multiple campuses for the administration of the academy program,  
23 provided such campuses shall be located across the state, taking the  
24 population density and distribution of likely applicants into account.  
25 The commissioner may issue a request for proposals for a private  
26 provider to operate the program with department oversight, with  
27 oversight including, but not limited to, unannounced site inspections,  
28 an evaluation of cost effectiveness and audits of participant outcomes.

29 (d) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the  
30 Commissioner of Developmental Services shall file a report on the  
31 Transition Academy for Independent Living program, in accordance  
32 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint  
33 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
34 matters relating to human services and public health. The report shall  
35 contain data on the utilization and success of the program, including,  
36 but not limited to, (1) program demand, (2) the general demographics  
37 and outcomes of program participants, (3) the cost effectiveness of the  
38 program, and (4) any recommendations to modify or expand the  
39 program.

40 *Sec. 2. (Effective from passage)* (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy  
41 and Management, in consultation with the Labor Commissioner,  
42 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, Commissioner of  
43 Economic and Community Development, the Office of Workforce  
44 Strategy, the Council on Developmental Disabilities and the  
45 Connecticut Business Industry Association, shall (1) analyze existing  
46 employment assistance programs for persons with disabilities,  
47 including, but not limited to, persons with intellectual or developmental  
48 disabilities, (2) establish financial incentives for businesses to employ a  
49 greater number of such persons, and (3) create a workforce plan that  
50 incentivizes businesses to provide training programs, offer modified  
51 interviews and reserve market-rate, full-time jobs.

52 (b) The secretary shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions  
53 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of the evaluation  
54 and recommendations not later than July 1, 2024, with the joint standing  
55 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
56 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, commerce,  
57 finance, revenue and bonding, human services, labor and public health.

58 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy  
59 and Management, in consultation with the Commissioners of  
60 Transportation, Aging and Disability Services and Developmental  
61 Services and the Council on Developmental Disabilities, shall (1) review  
62 other states' best transportation practices for persons with disabilities,  
63 (2) assess expansion opportunities for and accessibility of state-wide  
64 and local transportation for such persons, and (3) develop  
65 recommendations for ways the state can provide more cost-effective,  
66 efficient and reliable transportation for persons with disabilities,  
67 including, but not limited to, persons with intellectual or developmental  
68 disabilities.

69 (b) The secretary shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions  
70 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of the review and  
71 recommendations not later than July 1, 2024, with the joint standing  
72 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
73 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,  
74 transportation, human services and public health.

75 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Social Services, in  
76 consultation with the Commissioner of Developmental Services and  
77 within available appropriations, shall reduce the waiting lists for  
78 services in Medicaid waiver programs established under Section 1915(c)  
79 of the Social Security Act and administered by the Department of  
80 Developmental Services. Not later than January 1, 2024, the  
81 Commissioner of Social Services shall file a report, in accordance with  
82 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on (1) the number  
83 of persons who have been removed from the waiting lists and are  
84 receiving home and community-based services, and (2) the number of

85 persons who remain on the waiting lists with the joint standing  
86 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
87 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human  
88 services and public health.

89       Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy  
90 and Management, in consultation with the Commissioners of  
91 Education, Social Services, Developmental Services, Aging and  
92 Disability Services and Public Health and the Council on  
93 Developmental Disabilities, shall develop and recommend new state  
94 statutory definitions for intellectual disabilities and developmental  
95 disabilities and identify related programs for persons with such  
96 disabilities that may need to be changed or redesignated in accordance  
97 with any new statutory definitions. The secretary shall also make  
98 recommendations concerning qualifying criteria for services for such  
99 persons, including the removal of consideration of a qualifying  
100 intelligence quotient.

101       (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the  
102 Commissioners of Education, Social Services, Developmental Services,  
103 Aging and Disability Services and Public Health shall solicit and take  
104 into account input from persons with intellectual or developmental  
105 disabilities, their families and caregivers in developing the  
106 recommendations.

107       (c) Not later than January 1, 2024, the secretary shall file a report, in  
108 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
109 with recommendations on such statutory definitions, programs that  
110 may need to be redesignated in accordance with any new statutory  
111 definitions and qualifying criteria for services with the joint standing  
112 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
113 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education,  
114 human services and public health. The report shall include a summary  
115 of the input obtained pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and how  
116 the input was incorporated into the recommendations.

117       Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Social Services, in  
118 consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
119 and within available appropriations, shall expand the Medicaid waiver  
120 program for persons with autism spectrum disorder to allow not less  
121 than six hundred persons on a waiting list to receive services under the  
122 program. Not later than January 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Social  
123 Services shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section  
124 11-4a of the general statutes, on the waiver program expansion with  
125 recommendations to further reduce the waiting list with the joint  
126 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
127 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and  
128 human services.

129       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of Social  
130 Services shall increase the asset limits used to determine eligibility for  
131 HUSKY C, as defined in section 17b-290 of the general statutes, to three  
132 thousand six hundred dollars for an individual and five thousand four  
133 hundred dollars for a married couple.

134       (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall allow any person,  
135 whose income exceeds the income limits for HUSKY C but who  
136 otherwise qualifies, to qualify for the program by spending down such  
137 person's excess income over the HUSKY C income limits on incurred  
138 medical bills in accordance with 42 CFR 435.831.

139       Sec. 8. Section 17b-261 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
140 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

141       (a) Medical assistance shall be provided for any otherwise eligible  
142 person (1) whose income, including any available support from legally  
143 liable relatives and the income of the person's spouse or dependent  
144 child, is not more than [one hundred forty-three per cent, pending  
145 approval of a federal waiver applied for pursuant to subsection (e) of  
146 this section, of the benefit amount paid to a person with no income  
147 under the temporary family assistance program] one thousand four  
148 hundred sixty-five dollars per month, and (2) if such person is an

149 institutionalized individual as defined in Section 1917 of the Social  
150 Security Act, 42 USC 1396p(h)(3), and such person has not made an  
151 assignment or transfer or other disposition of property for less than fair  
152 market value for the purpose of establishing eligibility for benefits or  
153 assistance under this section. Any such disposition shall be treated in  
154 accordance with Section 1917(c) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC  
155 1396p(c). Any disposition of property made on behalf of an applicant or  
156 recipient or the spouse of an applicant or recipient by a guardian,  
157 conservator, person authorized to make such disposition pursuant to a  
158 power of attorney or other person so authorized by law shall be  
159 attributed to such applicant, recipient or spouse. A disposition of  
160 property ordered by a court shall be evaluated in accordance with the  
161 standards applied to any other such disposition for the purpose of  
162 determining eligibility. [The commissioner shall establish the standards  
163 for eligibility for medical assistance at one hundred forty-three per cent  
164 of the benefit amount paid to a household of equal size with no income  
165 under the temporary family assistance program.] In determining  
166 eligibility, the commissioner shall not consider as income Aid and  
167 Attendance pension benefits granted to a veteran, as defined in section  
168 27-103, or the surviving spouse of such veteran. Except as provided in  
169 section 17b-277 and section 17b-292, the medical assistance program  
170 shall provide coverage to persons under the age of nineteen with  
171 household income up to one hundred ninety-six per cent of the federal  
172 poverty level without an asset limit and to persons under the age of  
173 nineteen, who qualify for coverage under Section 1931 of the Social  
174 Security Act, with household income not exceeding one hundred  
175 ninety-six per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset limit,  
176 and their parents and needy caretaker relatives, who qualify for  
177 coverage under Section 1931 of the Social Security Act, with household  
178 income not exceeding one hundred fifty-five per cent of the federal  
179 poverty level without an asset limit. Such levels shall be based on the  
180 regional differences in such benefit amount, if applicable, unless such  
181 levels based on regional differences are not in conformance with federal  
182 law. Any income in excess of the applicable amounts shall be applied as  
183 may be required by said federal law, and assistance shall be granted for

184 the balance of the cost of authorized medical assistance. The  
185 Commissioner of Social Services shall provide applicants for assistance  
186 under this section, at the time of application, with a written statement  
187 advising them of (A) the effect of an assignment or transfer or other  
188 disposition of property on eligibility for benefits or assistance, (B) the  
189 effect that having income that exceeds the limits prescribed in this  
190 subsection will have with respect to program eligibility, and (C) the  
191 availability of, and eligibility for, services provided by the Connecticut  
192 Home Visiting System, established pursuant to section 17b-751b. For  
193 coverage dates on or after January 1, 2014, the department shall use the  
194 modified adjusted gross income financial eligibility rules set forth in  
195 Section 1902(e)(14) of the Social Security Act and the implementing  
196 regulations to determine eligibility for HUSKY A, HUSKY B and  
197 HUSKY D applicants, as defined in section 17b-290. Persons who are  
198 determined ineligible for assistance pursuant to this section shall be  
199 provided a written statement notifying such persons of their ineligibility  
200 and advising such persons of their potential eligibility for one of the  
201 other insurance affordability programs as defined in 42 CFR 435.4.

202 (b) For the purposes of the Medicaid program, the Commissioner of  
203 Social Services shall consider parental income and resources as available  
204 to a child under eighteen years of age who is living with his or her  
205 parents and is blind or disabled for purposes of the Medicaid program,  
206 or to any other child under twenty-one years of age who is living with  
207 his or her parents.

208 (c) For the purposes of determining eligibility for the Medicaid  
209 program, an available asset is one that is actually available to the  
210 applicant or one that the applicant has the legal right, authority or  
211 power to obtain or to have applied for the applicant's general or medical  
212 support. If the terms of a trust provide for the support of an applicant,  
213 the refusal of a trustee to make a distribution from the trust does not  
214 render the trust an unavailable asset. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
215 this subsection, the availability of funds in a trust or similar instrument  
216 funded in whole or in part by the applicant or the applicant's spouse

217 shall be determined pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act  
218 of 1993, 42 USC 1396p. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply  
219 to a special needs trust, as defined in 42 USC 1396p(d)(4)(A), as  
220 amended from time to time. For purposes of determining whether a  
221 beneficiary under a special needs trust, who has not received a disability  
222 determination from the Social Security Administration, is disabled, as  
223 defined in 42 USC 1382c(a)(3), the Commissioner of Social Services, or  
224 the commissioner's designee, shall independently make such  
225 determination. The commissioner shall not require such beneficiary to  
226 apply for Social Security disability benefits or obtain a disability  
227 determination from the Social Security Administration for purposes of  
228 determining whether the beneficiary is disabled.

229 (d) The transfer of an asset in exchange for other valuable  
230 consideration shall be allowable to the extent the value of the other  
231 valuable consideration is equal to or greater than the value of the asset  
232 transferred.

233 (e) The Commissioner of Social Services [shall seek a waiver from  
234 federal law to permit federal financial participation for Medicaid  
235 expenditures for families with incomes of one hundred forty-three per  
236 cent of the temporary family assistance program payment standard]  
237 may seek federal approval for a Medicaid waiver or a Medicaid state  
238 plan amendment to implement the provisions of this section.

239 (f) To the extent [permitted by] permissible under federal law,  
240 Medicaid eligibility shall be extended for one year to a family that  
241 becomes ineligible for medical assistance under Section 1931 of the  
242 Social Security Act due to income from employment by one of its  
243 members who is a caretaker relative or due to receipt of child support  
244 income. A family receiving extended benefits on July 1, 2005, shall  
245 receive the balance of such extended benefits, provided no such family  
246 shall receive more than twelve additional months of such benefits.

247 (g) An institutionalized spouse applying for Medicaid and having a  
248 spouse living in the community shall be required, to the maximum



249 extent permitted by law, to divert income to such community spouse in  
250 order to raise the community spouse's income to the level of the  
251 minimum monthly needs allowance, as described in Section 1924 of the  
252 Social Security Act. Such diversion of income shall occur before the  
253 community spouse is allowed to retain assets in excess of the  
254 community spouse protected amount described in Section 1924 of the  
255 Social Security Act. The Commissioner of Social Services, pursuant to  
256 section 17b-10, may implement the provisions of this subsection while  
257 in the process of adopting regulations, provided the commissioner  
258 prints notice of intent to adopt the regulations [in the Connecticut Law  
259 Journal within] on the eRegulations System not later than twenty days  
260 [of] after adopting such policy. Such policy shall be valid until the time  
261 final regulations are effective.

262 (h) To the extent permissible under federal law, an institutionalized  
263 individual, as defined in Section 1917 of the Social Security Act, 42 USC  
264 1396p(h)(3), shall not be determined ineligible for Medicaid solely on  
265 the basis of the cash value of a life insurance policy worth less than ten  
266 thousand dollars provided the individual is pursuing the surrender of  
267 the policy.

268 (i) Medical assistance shall be provided, in accordance with the  
269 provisions of subsection (e) of section 17a-6, to any child under the  
270 supervision of the Commissioner of Children and Families who is not  
271 receiving Medicaid benefits, has not yet qualified for Medicaid benefits  
272 or is otherwise ineligible for such benefits. Medical assistance shall also  
273 be provided to any child in the behavioral services program operated  
274 by the Department of Developmental Services who is not receiving  
275 Medicaid benefits, has not yet qualified for Medicaid benefits or is  
276 otherwise ineligible for benefits. To the extent practicable, the  
277 Commissioner of Children and Families and the Commissioner of  
278 Developmental Services shall apply for, or assist such child in qualifying  
279 for, the Medicaid program.

280 (j) The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide Early and  
281 Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment program services, as

282 required and defined as of December 31, 2005, by 42 USC 1396a(a)(43),  
283 42 USC 1396d(r) and 42 USC 1396d(a)(4)(B) and applicable federal  
284 regulations, to all persons who are under the age of twenty-one and  
285 otherwise eligible for medical assistance under this section.

286 (k) A veteran, as defined in section 27-103, and any member of his or  
287 her family, who applies for or receives assistance under the Medicaid  
288 program, shall apply for all benefits for which he or she may be eligible  
289 through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the United  
290 States Department of Defense.

291 (l) On and after January 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Social Services  
292 shall, within available appropriations, provide state-funded medical  
293 assistance to any child twelve years of age and younger, regardless of  
294 immigration status, (1) whose household income does not exceed two  
295 hundred one per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset limit,  
296 and (2) who does not otherwise qualify for (A) Medicaid, (B) the  
297 Children's Health Insurance Program, or (C) an offer of affordable,  
298 employer-sponsored insurance, as defined in the Affordable Care Act,  
299 as an employee or a dependent of an employee. A child eligible for such  
300 assistance under this subsection shall continue to receive such assistance  
301 until such child is nineteen years of age, provided the child continues to  
302 meet the eligibility requirements prescribed in subdivisions (1) and (2)  
303 of this subsection.

304 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 29-1f of the general statutes is repealed  
305 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

306 (a) The clearinghouse established under section 29-1e shall collect,  
307 process, maintain and disseminate information to assist in the location  
308 of any missing person who (1) is eighteen years of age or older and has  
309 a mental impairment, [or] (2) is sixty-five years of age or older, or (3) has  
310 an intellectual or developmental disability, provided a missing person  
311 report prepared by the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
312 Protection has been filed by such missing person's relative, guardian,  
313 conservator or agent appointed by the missing person in accordance

314 with sections 1-350 to 1-353b, inclusive, any health care representative  
315 appointed by the missing person in accordance with section 19a-576 or  
316 a nursing home administrator, as defined in section 19a-511, or,  
317 pursuant to section 17a-465b, by an employee of the Department of  
318 Mental Health and Addiction Services who is certified under the  
319 provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive. Such relative,  
320 guardian, conservator, agent, health care representative, nursing home  
321 administrator or employee shall attest under penalty of perjury that the  
322 missing person (A) is eighteen years of age or older and has a mental  
323 impairment, [or] (B) is sixty-five years of age or older, or (C) has an  
324 intellectual or developmental disability. No other proof shall be  
325 required in order to verify that the missing person meets the criteria to  
326 be eligible for assistance under this subsection. Such relative, guardian,  
327 conservator, agent, health care representative, nursing home  
328 administrator or employee who files a missing person report shall  
329 immediately notify the clearinghouse or law enforcement agency if the  
330 missing person's location has been determined.

331 Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes described in  
332 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the  
333 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state  
334 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the  
335 aggregate one million dollars.

336 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount  
337 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department  
338 of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the purpose of grants  
339 to be distributed to municipalities and local police departments to apply  
340 for and use to establish and implement a local voluntary registration  
341 system for residents with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

342 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise  
343 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the  
344 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all  
345 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this  
346 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived

347 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in  
348 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to  
349 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not  
350 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided  
351 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond  
352 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be  
353 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
354 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed  
355 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
356 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its  
357 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall  
358 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state  
359 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and  
360 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as  
361 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,  
362 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such  
363 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay  
364 such principal and interest as the same become due.

365       Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of  
366 Developmental Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
367 Education, shall maintain, in a readily accessible format, data on (1) the  
368 estimated number of persons in the state with intellectual or  
369 developmental disabilities, (2) the number of such persons receiving  
370 services from the Department of Developmental Services or the  
371 Department of Education by programs administered by such  
372 departments, and (3) the number of such persons on waiting lists for  
373 Medicaid waiver programs administered by the Department of  
374 Developmental Services, by waiver program.

375       (b) Not later than December fifteenth annually, the Commissioner of  
376 Developmental Services shall file a report, in accordance with the  
377 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the data collected  
378 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section with the joint standing  
379 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

380 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human  
381 services and public health.

382       Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Office of Workforce  
383 Strategy, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Education, Aging  
384 and Disability Services, Developmental Services and Social Services,  
385 shall establish a Behavioral Health and Human Services Career Pipeline  
386 program to ensure a sufficient number of highly trained providers are  
387 available to serve the needs of persons in the state with intellectual,  
388 developmental or physical disabilities, mental illness or behavioral  
389 health conditions.

390       (b) The Office of Workforce Strategy shall consult with the  
391 Commissioners of Social Services, Developmental Services and Mental  
392 Health and Addiction Services to determine (1) the greatest needs for  
393 behavioral health and human services providers in programs they  
394 administer, and (2) barriers to hiring and retaining qualified providers.  
395 The Office of Workforce Strategy shall assist local and regional boards  
396 of education in enhancing existing partnerships or establishing new  
397 partnerships with providers of behavioral health and human services  
398 and higher education institutions to provide a pathway to a diploma,  
399 credential, certificate or license and a job providing behavioral health or  
400 human services.

401       (c) The Office of Workforce Strategy, in collaboration with the  
402 Commissioners of Education and Aging and Disability Services, shall  
403 develop a strategic workforce plan that includes, but is not limited to,  
404 (1) a strategy to increase the number of state residents pursuing careers  
405 in behavioral health or human services, (2) salary and working  
406 conditions conducive to retaining an adequate number of behavioral  
407 health and human services providers to serve state residents, and (3)  
408 funding needed to support the Behavioral Health and Human Services  
409 Career Pipeline program. The Office of Workforce Strategy shall submit  
410 a report on the plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
411 of the general statutes, not later than November 1, 2023, with the joint  
412 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of

413 matters relating to education, human services, public health and labor.

414       Sec. 13. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Developmental  
415 Services shall review the rights of persons placed or treated under the  
416 supervision of the commissioner as provided in section 17a-238 of the  
417 general statutes to determine whether (1) additions or changes are  
418 needed to ensure such persons are afforded all rights due to such  
419 persons; and (2) such persons have a remedy to seek redress in court for  
420 a violation of such rights. Not later than December 1, 2023, the  
421 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions  
422 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees  
423 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
424 human services and public health with recommendations for (A) any  
425 changes necessary in section 17a-238 of the general statutes, and (B) any  
426 action needed to ensure the rights of all persons with intellectual or  
427 developmental disabilities, regardless of whether such persons are  
428 placed or treated under the supervision of the commissioner, are  
429 protected.

430       Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Department of  
431 Administrative Services shall develop an online portal for the secure  
432 sharing of information between agencies serving persons with  
433 intellectual, developmental or physical disabilities and persons with  
434 autism spectrum disorder.

435       Sec. 15. Section 38a-1041 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
436 subsection (i) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

437       (NEW) (i) Not later than October 1, 2023, the Healthcare Advocate  
438 shall establish a new position within the Office of the Healthcare  
439 Advocate to serve as a point of contact for caregivers of adults with  
440 intellectual, developmental or physical disabilities or autism spectrum  
441 disorder who need assistance in assessing, applying for and obtaining  
442 state services for such adults. The Healthcare Advocate, within available  
443 appropriations, shall hire a person who meets qualifications prescribed  
444 by the Healthcare Advocate for the position.

445       Sec. 16. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Connecticut Sentencing  
446 Commission, established pursuant to section 54-300 of the general  
447 statutes, shall study the experience of persons with intellectual or  
448 developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder who are in the  
449 criminal justice system. Such study shall include, but need not be limited  
450 to, (1) rates of incarceration of such persons compared to the overall  
451 population of such persons in the state, and (2) best practices of other  
452 states concerning such persons.

453       (b) The commission shall report the results of the study, in accordance  
454 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, not later than  
455 July 1, 2024, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
456 having cognizance of matters relating to human services, public health  
457 and the judiciary. The report shall include the commission's  
458 recommendations for sentencing considerations for such persons.

459       Sec. 17. Section 19a-754a of the general statutes is amended by adding  
460 subsection (e) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

461       (NEW) (e) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy shall  
462 establish a new position within the office to serve as state-wide  
463 coordinator of programs and services provided by state agencies for  
464 persons with intellectual, developmental or physical disabilities or  
465 autism spectrum disorder. The coordinator shall make  
466 recommendations to the executive director concerning strategies to  
467 improve services offered to such persons and gaps in services. The  
468 executive director, within available appropriations, may hire a person  
469 who meets qualifications prescribed by the executive director for the  
470 position.

471       Sec. 18. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Developmental  
472 Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Education and  
473 Public Health and the Council on Developmental Disabilities, shall  
474 evaluate the level-of-need assessment tool used by state agencies that  
475 serve persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities to (1)  
476 analyze best practices and assessment tools used by other states, (2)

477 assess alternative tools, models or ways to capture an individual's  
478 service needs, (3) evaluate how funding levels for services and  
479 programs are determined for each individual, and (4) determine which  
480 states are providing similar services and programs via a service delivery  
481 model in which such persons or their representatives direct services  
482 based on their needs. The Commissioner of Developmental Services  
483 shall report the results of the study, in accordance with the provisions  
484 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, not later than July 1, 2024, to the  
485 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
486 of matters relating to human services and public health.

487       Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes described in  
488 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the  
489 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state  
490 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the  
491 aggregate one million dollars.

492       (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount  
493 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department  
494 of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the purpose of  
495 establishing a pool of funds to allow private providers to apply for  
496 financial assistance to comply with fire regulation requirements that any  
497 group home be equipped with a five-thousand gallon water tank. The  
498 department, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management,  
499 the Connecticut Council of Small Towns and the Connecticut Builders  
500 Trade Association, shall assess level of need for funds and review fire  
501 regulations for group homes in other states, including, but not limited  
502 to, New England states, California and Colorado, to determine whether  
503 any changes are necessary in state fire regulations for such group  
504 homes.

505       (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise  
506 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the  
507 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all  
508 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this  
509 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived



510 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in  
511 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to  
512 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not  
513 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided  
514 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond  
515 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be  
516 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that  
517 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed  
518 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
519 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its  
520 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall  
521 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state  
522 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and  
523 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as  
524 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,  
525 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such  
526 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay  
527 such principal and interest as the same become due.

528 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10-29a of the general statutes is  
529 amended by adding subdivision (108) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

530 (NEW) (108) The Governor shall proclaim May twenty-third of each  
531 year to be Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness and  
532 Advocacy Day to promote awareness of and advocacy for persons with  
533 intellectual and developmental disabilities. Suitable exercises shall be  
534 held in the State Capitol and in public schools on the day so designated  
535 or, if that day is not a school day, on the school day preceding, or on any  
536 such other day as the local or regional board of education prescribes.

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>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 4	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 5	from passage	New section
Sec. 6	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 7	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 8	July 1, 2023	17b-261
Sec. 9	July 1, 2023	29-1f(a)
Sec. 10	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 11	from passage	New section
Sec. 12	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 13	from passage	New section
Sec. 14	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 15	from passage	38a-1041(i)
Sec. 16	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 17	July 1, 2023	19a-754a(e)
Sec. 18	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 19	July 1, 2023	New section
Sec. 20	from passage	10-29a(a)(108)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Sections 2(b) and 3(b), "chapter 54" was changed to "section 11-4a" for accuracy; in Section 8(g), "in the Connecticut Law Journal within" was changed to "[in the Connecticut Law Journal within] on the eRegulations System not later than" and "twenty days of" was changed to "twenty days [of] after" for statutory consistency; in Section 13, Subdiv. designators "(1)" and "(2)" were added and existing Subdiv. designators were changed to Subparas. "(A)" and "(B)" and "have a remedy" was changed to "such persons have a remedy" for clarity; in Section 18(4), "executing" was changed to "providing", "programs" was changed to "services and programs" and "self-direct care" was changed to "a service delivery model in which such persons or their representatives direct services based on their needs" for clarity; and in Section 20, "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day" was removed for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

**HS** Joint Favorable Subst. C/R APP

**APP** Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO