
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 425

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE STATE.

SUMMARY

This bill specifically prohibits health care providers from refusing to provide health care services due to someone's race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, age, national origin, ancestry, intellectual disability, mental disability, learning disability, physical disability, including blindness, status as a veteran, or status as a domestic violence victim.

The bill classifies this as a discriminatory practice under the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) laws. By doing so, the bill allows people aggrieved by these violations, or CHRO itself, to file a complaint with CHRO alleging discrimination.

The bill specifies that it does not require the delivery of futile health care, affect the professional standard of care, or interfere with public health planning.

Under the bill, a "health care provider" is any person, corporation, facility, or institution licensed by the state to provide health care services, or their officers, employees, or agents acting in the course and scope of their employment.

Under existing law, it is generally a discriminatory practice to deny someone, based on similar protected classes as listed above, equal accommodations in any place of public accommodation (i.e., one that caters to or offers its services, facilities, or goods to the general public), subject to lawful conditions and limitations that apply alike to everyone (CGS § 46a-64).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Related Federal Law

Federal law prohibits discrimination in federally funded health programs or activities based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity) (42 U.S.C. § 18116).

Among other related laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination based on disability in public accommodations, specifically including private hospitals or health care provider offices (42 U.S.C. §§ 12181(7)(F) & 12182).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 12 (03/28/2024)