

# Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-309

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN

**Title:** LEGALLY PRESENT, OLDER NONCITIZENS.

**Vote Date:** 3/19/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/7/2024

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Human Services Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The State Medical Assistance for Non-Citizens provided state-funded health insurance to eligible non-citizens of any age who had been disqualified for Medicaid because they had lived in the country for less than five years. Many of these individuals are ineligible for Medicaid because they have not resided in the United States for more than five years or have lost their Medicaid coverage for other reasons. Unfortunately, this program was suspended in 2011. The State Medical Assistance for Non-Citizens program provided necessary care that would be otherwise unavailable to such non-citizens. This bill aims to study what currently occurs to individuals who are legally present noncitizens, ineligible for Medicaid, and require home assistance or nursing home care. This study would determine the future of the State Medical Assistance for Non-Citizens program and whether there is a current need for such programs.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:**

The substitute language changes the reporting date from October 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025, and removes the “older” from the title and text.

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

**Department of Social Services (DSS), Commissioner, Andrea Barton Reeves:** took no position on the bill and offered suggested changes and background on a previously eliminated program, the State Medical Assistance for Non-Citizens. According to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, the state had spent \$24 million per year before the program suspended

applications in 2011. It is also stated that the Department is concerned about the reporting deadline of October 1, 2024, due to limited resources and staff capacity. It is stated that the bill, as currently drafted, does not specify what “older” is considered or the expected level of care. *(This was changed in the substitute language.)*

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**LeadingAge Connecticut, President, Mag Morelli;** supports this bill stating that providers who accept residents with no available source of payment for their nursing home care face a financial burden. It is stated that a resident living in a non-profit nursing home community was placed in such a nursing home after the program was closed to new applicants in 2011. It is stated that nursing homes receive no payment for the care provided to this resident, and such is a financial hardship for the provider.

**The following individuals have submitted written testimony in support of this bill.**

Laura Rinaldi  
Ray Rinaldi

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Jessica Elizondo**

**Date: March 26, 2024**