

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-368

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING SOURCE PLASMA DONATION CENTERS.

Vote Date: 3/20/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/13/2024

File No.: 300

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will repeal the current requirement for a registered nurse (RN) or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to be on-site at plasma donation centers during operating hours. The bill also allows a licensed physician to be designated as a director of these centers and have the same requirements and regulations as in federal law regarding staff supervision, training, and duties. It also requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to update these policies by October 1, 2024.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Manisha Juthani, MD, and Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (DPH):

When DPH was crafting policy regarding the safety of blood donors, they started with the federal requirements. DPH felt that these protections were insufficient and went on to create a more robust set of requirements in the state of Connecticut. As drafted, SB-368 would force DPH to embrace the federal requirements and sacrifice key components in quality and safety of care. Several parts of the initial bill follow this trend of having requirements that are less thorough than current DPH standards and more in line with the bare minimum approach of the federal government. DPH looks forward to working with the Committee in creating a final draft of the bill that balances safety and feasibility.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA):

CHA supports the changes in the bill which are necessary to correct consequences related to oversight of blood and plasma collection services passed in the last legislative session. PA 23-97 was meant to provide flexibility to blood collection and plasma source collection services that did not need a laboratory license. Unfortunately, the language accidentally

punishes providers that were relying on their lab or hospital license to provide these vital blood collection services. CHA respectfully requests language changes that state a hospital shall not be required to obtain a license for blood component collection activities performed by the hospital. The law as currently written accidentally punishes hospitals if the activity is performed at a lab associated with, but not on, the main campus.

Sarah Vossoughi, Medical Director, CT Blood Center:

Ms. Vossoughi is in support of the proposed amendment removing the requirement for a physician to be present at volunteer donor collection centers. A trained technician should be able to collect blood via apheresis from healthy donors. The care of a healthy volunteer donor is entirely different from that of a sick or fragile hospital patient. Ever since COVID, we have witnessed the fragility of our nation's blood banks across the country. Therefore, the top priority of this bill should be to remove obstacles to a blood draw and make the process as convenient as possible.

Dr. Christina Price, Assistant Professor and Doctor, Yale School of Medicine:

Dr. Price oversees the care of many patients who are immune deficient and require regular blood transfusions. Her patients and many others across the state represent a significant demand for blood plasma but there is not enough collection going on to satisfy the demand. Major companies that collect plasma such as Grifols do not operate any centers in CT due to regulatory requirements that serve as serious barriers. By updating CT regulations, we can create more collection centers in our state that are needed now more than ever.

Richard Branigan, CEO, American Red Cross, CT, and Rhode Island Region:

The Red Cross is strongly urging an immediate remedy to help avert a potential health crisis due to the inability to collect adequate supplies of blood and blood products in Connecticut. Mr. Branigan supports the amendment to this bill which would remove the requirement for an RN or APRN to perform this collection procedure. Of note is that no other state requires nurses to perform apheresis or be present at these collection facilities.

14 additional testimonies were submitted in support of this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Jared Barrientos

Date: 04/01/2024