



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 392

February Session, 2026

House Bill No. 5484

House of Representatives, April 2, 2026

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. GILCHREST of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXPANDING TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR HOME CARE CLIENTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-343 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish annually the
4 maximum allowable rate to be paid by agencies for homemaker
5 services, chore person services, companion services, respite care, meals
6 on wheels, adult day care services, case management and assessment
7 services, transportation, mental health counseling and elderly foster
8 care. The Commissioner of Social Services shall prescribe uniform forms
9 on which agencies providing such services shall report their costs for
10 such services. Such rates shall be determined on the basis of a reasonable
11 payment for necessary services rendered. The maximum allowable rates
12 established by the Commissioner of Social Services for the Connecticut
13 home-care program for the elderly established under section 17b-342
14 shall constitute the rates required under this section until revised in

15 accordance with this section. The Commissioner of Social Services shall
16 establish a fee schedule, to be effective on and after July 1, 1994, for
17 homemaker services, chore person services, companion services, respite
18 care, meals on wheels, adult day care services, case management and
19 assessment services, transportation, mental health counseling and
20 elderly foster care. The commissioner may annually increase the fee
21 schedule based on an increase in the cost of services. On and after July
22 1, 2026, the commissioner shall increase the fee schedule for a home care
23 provider, as defined in section 17b-374, who provides transportation to
24 or from medical appointments for home care clients who are Medicaid
25 beneficiaries, provided such provider has a state-issued driver's license
26 and sufficient liability insurance as prescribed by the commissioner. The
27 commissioner shall increase the fee schedule effective July 1, 2000, by
28 not less than five per cent, for adult day care services. The commissioner
29 shall increase the fee schedule effective July 1, 2011, by four dollars per
30 person, per day for adult day care services. The commissioner shall
31 increase the fee schedule effective July 1, 2019, for meals on wheels by
32 ten per cent over the fee schedule for meals on wheels for the previous
33 fiscal year. Effective July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the
34 commissioner may increase the fee schedule for meals on wheels
35 providers serving participants in the Connecticut home-care program
36 for the elderly by, at a minimum, the cost-of-living adjustment as
37 measured by the consumer price index. The commissioner may increase
38 any fee payable to a meals on wheels provider upon the application of
39 such provider evidencing extraordinary costs related to delivery of
40 meals on wheels in sparsely populated rural regions of the state.
41 Nothing contained in this section shall authorize a payment by the state
42 to any agency for such services in excess of the amount charged by such
43 agency for such services to the general public.

44 Sec. 2. Section 17b-276 of the general statutes is amended by adding
45 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

46 (NEW) (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, on and
47 after July 1, 2026, the commissioner shall reimburse a home care
48 provider, as defined in section 17b-374, who provides a home care client

49 who is a Medicaid beneficiary transportation to or from a medical
50 appointment, provided such home care provider has a state-issued
51 driver's license and sufficient liability insurance as prescribed by the
52 commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17b-343
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17b-276(c)

HS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with increasing payments for home care providers who transport Medicaid clients to or from medical appointments. The extent of the cost cannot be determined at this time as the bill does not specify the scope of the increases.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to payment rates and associated utilization.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5484*****AN ACT EXPANDING TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR HOME CARE CLIENTS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, starting July 1, 2026, to reimburse home care providers who transport Medicaid recipients to or from medical appointments (nonemergency medical transport (NEMT)) so long as the provider has a Connecticut driver's license and liability insurance in an amount the commissioner sets. She must do this regardless of existing law on competitive bidding for Medicaid NEMT.

Correspondingly, it requires the commissioner, starting July 1, 2026, to increase the fees that the department pays for home care providers who provide NEMT to Medicaid recipients.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, allows DSS to annually increase these fees for home care services, which are set by schedule, based on increases in service costs. The state's rate for these services cannot exceed that charged to the public.

Under the bill, home care providers are those who:

1. either (a) offer home care or long-term services and supports and are not licensed by the Department of Public Health or (b) are employed by an entity that provides these services, such as a home health care, home health aide, hospice, or homemaker companion agency, and
2. are not personal care attendants or family caregivers (those who provide adult family living services under DSS or Department of Developmental Services Medicaid waiver programs).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/19/2026)