



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 558

LCO No. 4958

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT INCREASING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR HOME HEALTH CARE AND FUNDING FOR THE CONNECTICUT HOME CARE PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-242 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Department of Social Services shall determine the rates to be
4 paid to home health care agencies and homemaker-home health aide
5 agencies by the state or any town in the state for persons aided or
6 cared for by the state or any such town. For the period from February
7 1, 1991, to January 31, 1992, inclusive, payment for each service to the
8 state shall be based upon the rate for such service as determined by the
9 Office of Health Care Access, except that for those providers whose
10 Medicaid rates for the year ending January 31, 1991, exceed the median
11 rate, no increase shall be allowed. For those providers whose rates for
12 the year ending January 31, 1991, are below the median rate, increases
13 shall not exceed the lower of the prior rate increased by the most
14 recent annual increase in the consumer price index for urban
15 consumers or the median rate. In no case shall any such rate exceed the

16 eightieth percentile of rates in effect January 31, 1991, nor shall any rate
17 exceed the charge to the general public for similar services. Rates
18 effective February 1, 1992, shall be based upon rates as determined by
19 the Office of Health Care Access, except that increases shall not exceed
20 the prior year's rate increased by the most recent annual increase in the
21 consumer price index for urban consumers and rates effective
22 February 1, 1992, shall remain in effect through June 30, 1993. Rates
23 effective July 1, 1993, shall be based upon rates as determined by the
24 Office of Health Care Access pursuant to the provisions of subsection
25 (b) of section 19a-635, except if the Medicaid rates for any service for
26 the period ending June 30, 1993, exceed the median rate for such
27 service, the increase effective July 1, 1993, shall not exceed one per
28 cent. If the Medicaid rate for any service for the period ending June 30,
29 1993, is below the median rate, the increase effective July 1, 1993, shall
30 not exceed the lower of the prior rate increased by one and one-half
31 times the most recent annual increase in the consumer price index for
32 urban consumers or the median rate plus one per cent. The
33 Commissioner of Social Services shall establish a fee schedule for home
34 health services to be effective on and after July 1, 1994. The
35 commissioner may annually increase any fee in the fee schedule based
36 on an increase in the cost of services. The commissioner shall increase
37 the fee schedule for home health services provided under the
38 Connecticut home-care program for the elderly established under
39 section 17b-342, effective July 1, 2000, by two per cent over the fee
40 schedule for home health services for the previous year. The
41 commissioner shall increase the fee schedule for home health services
42 provided under such program, effective July 1, 2001, by two per cent
43 over the fee schedule for such services for the previous year. The
44 commissioner may increase any fee payable to a home health care
45 agency or homemaker-home health aide agency upon the application
46 of such an agency evidencing extraordinary costs related to (1) serving
47 persons with AIDS; (2) high-risk maternal and child health care; (3)
48 escort services; or (4) extended hour services. In no case shall any rate
49 or fee exceed the charge to the general public for similar services. A

50 home health care agency or homemaker-home health aide agency
51 which, due to any material change in circumstances, is aggrieved by a
52 rate determined pursuant to this subsection may, within ten days of
53 receipt of written notice of such rate from the Commissioner of Social
54 Services, request in writing a hearing on all items of aggrievement. The
55 commissioner shall, upon the receipt of all documentation necessary to
56 evaluate the request, determine whether there has been such a change
57 in circumstances and shall conduct a hearing if appropriate. The
58 Commissioner of Social Services shall adopt regulations, in accordance
59 with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this subsection. The
60 commissioner may implement policies and procedures to carry out the
61 provisions of this subsection while in the process of adopting
62 regulations, provided notice of intent to adopt the regulations is
63 published in the Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days of
64 implementing the policies and procedures. Such policies and
65 procedures shall be valid for not longer than nine months.

66 Sec. 2. (a) The sum of twenty-seven million six hundred sixty-seven
67 thousand three hundred dollars is appropriated to the Department of
68 Social Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
69 30, 2002, for the Connecticut Home Care Program.

70 (b) The sum of twenty-seven million six hundred sixty-seven
71 thousand three hundred dollars is appropriated to the Department of
72 Social Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June
73 30, 2003, for the Connecticut Home Care Program.

74 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To increase the Medicaid reimbursement for home health care, thereby saving money by keeping people out of nursing homes and increasing human dignity by helping people stay in their own homes; and to increase state support for the Connecticut Home Care Program in order to allow more senior citizens to stay in their homes and remain self-sufficient.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LEBEAU, 3rd Dist.; REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5th Dist.
SEN. KISSEL, 7th Dist.; REP. HAMZY, 78th Dist.

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