



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 287

February Session, 2002

Substitute House Bill No. 5024

House of Representatives, April 3, 2002

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. EBERLE of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT STUDYING THE MERGER OF THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND REQUIRING COMMITTEE REVIEW OF CERTAIN FEDERAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 4-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

3 (a) The Governor is designated, as administrative agent of the state,
4 to apply for any funds or other aid for new construction,
5 reconstruction and equipment for state institutions, for The University
6 of Connecticut and for any other purpose which the Congress of the
7 United States has authorized or may authorize the federal government
8 to grant to the several states. The Governor, or any other officer of the
9 state designated in any Act passed by the Congress of the United
10 States, is authorized, in the name of the state, to make all applications
11 and sign all documents necessary to obtain such aid from the United
12 States or any agency thereof. The Treasurer is directed to receive all

13 funds granted by the United States, or by any agency thereof, and to
14 hold the same separate from all other funds of the state. Such funds
15 shall be disbursed by said Treasurer, upon voucher of the Comptroller,
16 under the direction of, and subject to regulations of, the Governor.

17 (b) The Governor may designate any commissioner, officer or
18 agency of the state or any group or committee of commissioners or
19 officers of the state as the sole agency of the state, (i) to apply for,
20 accept and expend funds allocated or payable to the state for state,
21 local and other expenditures under any Act of Congress or
22 administrative ruling pursuant thereto, (ii) to establish and administer
23 or supervise the administration of any state-wide plan which is now or
24 may hereafter be required as a condition for receipt of federal funds,
25 and (iii) to take such other action as may be reasonable and necessary
26 to fulfill the purposes of the federal requirements. Such agency may
27 comply with all administrative requirements, not inconsistent with the
28 laws of the state, imposed as a condition for receipt of said federal
29 funds.

30 (c) A copy of any application made by a state agency under the
31 provisions of this section or under the authority of any other section of
32 the general statutes, or a detailed summary thereof, except applications
33 for research grants by educational institutions, shall be submitted,
34 through the Office of Fiscal Analysis, to the joint standing committee
35 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
36 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, together with any
37 plans or amendments, prior to submission of such application to the
38 federal government. Notice of grant awards, except awards for
39 research grants to educational institutions, which the state receives
40 shall be sent to the committee, through the Office of Fiscal Analysis
41 upon notification to the state of such award by the federal government.

42 (d) For a grant exceeding fifty thousand dollars, a copy of any
43 application made by a state agency under the provisions of this section
44 or under the authority of any other section of the general statutes, or a
45 detailed summary thereof, shall be submitted, through the Office of

46 Fiscal Analysis, to the joint standing committee of the General
47 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to said grant, as
48 determined by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the
49 president pro tempore of the Senate.

50 [(d)] (e) For the purposes of encouraging and facilitating the
51 development and implementation of area-wide waste treatment
52 management plans pursuant to the federal Water Pollution Control
53 Act, the Governor may designate (1) the boundaries of one or more
54 waste treatment management planning areas within the state, and (2) a
55 single representative organization, including but not limited to
56 appointed and elected officials from state, regional or local
57 governments, or their designees, capable of developing effective area-
58 wide waste treatment management plans for such areas. Upon the
59 designation of that organization, notice thereof shall be given to the
60 Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development established
61 pursuant to section 4-60d, and the organization shall every six months
62 thereafter submit a report on its activities to the Governor and to that
63 committee.

64 Sec. 2. (Effective from passage) The Department of Public Health, in
65 consultation with the Office of Health Care Access and the Office of
66 Policy and Management, shall develop a plan for the merger of the
67 Office of Health Care Access into the Department of Public Health.
68 Said plan shall include: (1) Specific steps for the development and
69 implementation of a state-wide health data-base; (2) recommendations
70 for hospital licensing procedures and certificate of need procedures; (3)
71 steps to collect and analyze outpatient and physician-based health
72 data; and (4) standard definitions and categories of health data to be
73 collected from all state agencies. On or before January 1, 2004, said
74 plan shall be submitted, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general
75 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
76 having cognizance of matters relating to public health and
77 appropriations.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires state agencies to submit copies of federal grant applications to the committee(s) of cognizance when the requested award exceeds \$50,000. Agencies are currently required to submit these documents, or a detailed summary thereof, to the Appropriations Committee through the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA). It is anticipated that OFA will be able to provide copies of those applications exceeding \$50,000 to the committee(s) of cognizance, as determined by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, within the normally budgeted resources of the Office of Legislative Management.

It should be noted that it is assumed that the exemption from filing grant applications currently extended to research grants by educational institutions (Section 4-28(c) CGS) will also apply to this new requirement. If, however, the new reporting mandate is interpreted to apply to the constituent units of higher education, a workload increase and minimal cost will result for the University of Connecticut, the University of Connecticut Health Center, Connecticut State University and the Regional Community - Technical Colleges.

It is anticipated that the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) and the Office of Policy and Management will be able to participate in a planning effort regarding a potential merger of OHCA into DPH and report by January 1, 2004, to the Public Health and Appropriations Committees within each

agency's normally budgetary resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5024

AN ACT STUDYING THE MERGER OF THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND REQUIRING COMMITTEE REVIEW OF CERTAIN FEDERAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop a plan for merging the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) with DPH. The plan must include:

1. recommendations for hospital licensing and certificate of need procedures,
2. specific steps for developing and implementing a statewide health data base,
3. standard definitions and categories of health data to be collected from state agencies, and
4. steps to collect and analyze outpatient and physician-based health data.

DPH must submit the merger plan to the Public Health and Appropriations committees by January 1, 2004. It must develop the plan in consultation with OHCA and the Office of Policy and Management.

The bill also requires state agencies applying for any federal grant over \$50,000 to submit a copy of the application through the Office of Fiscal Analysis to the legislative committee with jurisdiction over the grant's subject matter. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore determine which committee has jurisdiction. By law, the Appropriations Committee receives (1) copies of grant applications, other than those for college and university research grants, before they are submitted to the federal government and (2) notice when grants are awarded.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the merger report; October 1, 2002 for the grant application requirement.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Appropriations Committee

Favorable Change of Reference
Voice Vote

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 18 Nay 5