



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 358

February Session, 2002

Substitute Senate Bill No. 602

Senate, April 8, 2002

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. COLEMAN of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING A TIME LIMIT ON SHOCK THERAPY
ORDERED BY THE PROBATE COURT.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 17a-543 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2002*):

4 (c) No psychosurgery or shock therapy shall be administered to any
5 patient without such patient's written informed consent, except as
6 provided in this subsection. Such consent shall be for a maximum
7 period of thirty days and may be revoked at any time. If it is
8 determined by the head of the hospital and two qualified physicians
9 that the patient has become incapable of giving informed consent,
10 shock therapy may be administered upon order of the Court of Probate
11 if, after hearing, such court finds that the patient is incapable of
12 informed consent and there is no [other reasonable alternative
13 procedure] less intrusive beneficial treatment. An order of the Court of

- 14 Probate authorizing the administration of shock therapy pursuant to
15 this subsection shall be effective for not more than forty-five days.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

JUD *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 provides that a probate court order authorizing shock therapy can only be effective for 45 days. The bill would result in no fiscal impact to the state.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 602

AN ACT CONCERNING A TIME LIMIT ON SHOCK THERAPY ORDERED BY THE PROBATE COURT**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a 45-day limit on probate court orders authorizing electroshock therapy for people unable or unwilling to give informed consent. Current law sets a 30-day maximum on voluntary consents but does not limit the duration of involuntary orders.

The bill requires the probate court judge, after a hearing, to find that there is no less intrusive beneficial treatment before issuing an involuntary order. Under current law, the court must instead find that no other reasonable alternative procedure exists.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2002

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 40 Nay 0