



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 346

February Session, 2008

Substitute House Bill No. 5791

House of Representatives, April 1, 2008

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY FOR LONG-TERM CARE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Division of Elderly
2 Services and the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services shall establish a
3 state-wide single point of entry system for individuals seeking long-
4 term care. The goal of the single point of entry system shall be to (1)
5 permit any individual seeking long-term care services in the state to
6 obtain the same information on long-term care services from any one
7 of the entities designated as a single point of entry agency pursuant to
8 subsection (b) of this section, and (2) promote consumer choice of long-
9 term care options.

10 (b) The Division of Elderly Services and the Bureau of Rehabilitation
11 Services, in consultation with the Long-Term Care Advisory Council
12 and members of the public, shall designate geographical service areas
13 for the establishment of single point of entry agencies and shall
14 designate a center for independent living, as defined in section 17b-613

15 of the general statutes, and an area agency on aging as single point of
16 entry agencies for each of the geographical service areas.

17 (c) Each center for independent living and area agency on aging
18 designated a single point of entry agency pursuant to subsection (b) of
19 this section shall be required to:

20 (1) Work collaboratively with each other to operate the single point
21 of entry system;

22 (2) Provide to all individuals seeking information on long-term care,
23 including individuals who pay privately for such care, with
24 information on all the long-term care options and services available in
25 the state, including community and home-based care and nursing
26 home care;

27 (3) Assess an individual's eligibility for long-term care services and
28 programs in the state, including Medicaid and other public programs
29 and services offered by private and nonprofit organizations, through a
30 comprehensive, uniform screening process;

31 (4) Assist individuals in obtaining a timely determination of
32 eligibility from the Department of Social Services for publicly funded
33 long-term care services and programs;

34 (5) Assist individuals in developing a long-term care support plan
35 that is person-centered throughout the planning process; and

36 (6) Implement quality assurance standards and procedures.

37 (d) In addition to the requirements established in subsection (c) of
38 this section, the directors of the Division of Elderly Services and the
39 Bureau of Rehabilitation Services may establish additional
40 requirements, criteria and standards for the operation of agencies
41 designated as single point of entry agencies. Said directors shall
42 implement a quality assurance program to measure the performance of
43 such designated agencies. Any designated entity that fails to meet the
44 requirements and standards in subsection (c) of this section, any

45 additional criteria established under this subsection or the
 46 commissioner's quality assurance measures may be subject to
 47 termination as a single point of entry agency.

48 Sec. 2. Section 17b-367 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes
 49 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
 50 *1, 2008*):

51 The Office of Policy and Management, [within existing budgetary
 52 resources and] in consultation with the [Select Committee on Aging]
 53 select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 54 matters relating to aging, the Commission on Aging, personnel
 55 designated by the Commissioner of Social Services who administer the
 56 CHOICES health insurance assistance program, personnel who
 57 administer the single point of entry system established in section 1 of
 58 this act and the Long-Term Care Advisory Council, shall develop and
 59 maintain a single consumer-oriented Internet [website] web site that
 60 provides comprehensive information on long-term care options that
 61 are available in Connecticut and information on the single point of
 62 entry system established pursuant to section 1 of this act. The [website]
 63 web site shall also include direct links and referral information
 64 regarding long-term care resources, including private and nonprofit
 65 organizations offering advice, counseling and legal services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	17b-367

HS *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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Department of Social Services	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the Department of Social Services’ (DSS) Division of Elderly Services (DES) and Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) to establish a statewide single point of entry system to provide information, referral, and screening for individuals seeking long-term care. DSS must divide the state into geographic service areas and designate a center for independent living and an area agency on aging to serve as single point of entry agencies in each of these areas.

It is expected that the independent living centers and area agencies on aging would incur significant increased costs to serve as single points of entry. As these costs are passed on to DSS, the state would incur costs as well. It is not known if savings to the state would be realized if funding was eliminated for the various points of entry currently in place.

The bill makes changes to the requirements for a long term care website. These changes are not expected to have any fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5791*****AN ACT CONCERNING A SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY FOR LONG-TERM CARE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department Social Services' (DSS) Division of Elderly Services (DES) and Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) to establish a statewide single point of entry system to provide information, referral, and screening for individuals seeking long-term care. It also makes changes to the state's long-term care website. (The DSS Division of Elderly Services is now called the Aging Services Division.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

SINGLE POINT OF-ENTRY SYSTEM***Structure and Goals***

Under the bill, DES and BRS must collaborate with the Long-Term Care Advisory Council and members of the public to divide the state into geographic service areas and designate a center for independent living and an area agency on aging to serve as single point of entry agencies in each of these areas. The goal of the single point of entry system is to allow an individual to obtain standardized information on long-term care services from each single point of entry agency and to promote consumer choice of long-term care options.

Agency Requirements

The bill requires each designated center for independent living and area agency on aging to:

1. work collaboratively with each other;

2. provide information to all individuals on available long-term care options and services, including community and home-based care and nursing home care;
3. provide a comprehensive, uniform screening process to assess an individual's eligibility for long-term care services and programs, including Medicaid and other public programs and services offered by private and nonprofit organizations;
4. help individuals obtain a timely eligibility determination for public long-term care services and programs from DSS;
5. help individuals develop individualized long-term care support plans; and
6. implement quality assurance standards and procedures.

Quality Assurance

The bill also requires the directors of DES and BRS to implement a quality assurance program to measure agency performance. It authorizes them to establish additional agency requirements, criteria, and standards and to terminate a single point of entry agency that fails to meet its requirements.

LONG TERM CARE WEBSITE

The bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), in collaboration with others, to maintain the state's long-term care website, which it developed in 2006. Current law requires OPM to develop the website. It also requires the website to include information on the single point of entry system, in addition to information on long-term care options, resources, and referrals.

The bill adds single point of entry system personnel to the group charged with developing and maintaining the website. The other entities are the Aging Committee, Commission on Aging, CHOICES personnel designated by DSS, and the Long-Term Care Advisory Council. The bill also removes the requirement that OPM develop and

maintain the website only within existing resources.

BACKGROUND

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)

The state has five AAAs, which are private, nonprofit elderly planning and service agencies that receive state and federal funds to carry out the federal Older Americans Act requirements. The AAAs must (1) represent elderly people in their geographic areas, (2) develop and administer an area plan, (3) coordinate and assist local public and nonprofit private agencies in developing programs, (4) receive and distribute federal and state funds for these purposes, and (5) perform additional federal functions.

Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

The state also has five CILs, overseen by BRS, that provide services to individuals with disabilities, including assistance in obtaining home and vehicle modifications, adaptive equipment, personal care, and other services as needed to enhance independent functioning.

Nursing Home Diversion Modernization Grant

In 2007, Connecticut received a \$500,000 grant from the federal Administration on Aging's Nursing Home Diversion Modernization Grant program. It authorizes DSS's Aging Services Division, in partnership with the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut and community providers to operate a "Choices at Home" project in South Central Connecticut. The goal of the project is to help individuals who are at high risk of nursing home placement but not yet eligible for Medicaid to remain in their own homes.

The 18-month project has several initiatives including the development and implementation of a pilot single point of entry system in the South Central region of Connecticut. This system is expected to become operational by the end of March, 2009.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/13/2008)