



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 151

February Session, 2010

House Bill No. 5351

House of Representatives, March 25, 2010

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 38th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS FOR VETERANS IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) No nursing home facility,
2 as defined in section 19a-521 of the general statutes, shall restrict any
3 patient from obtaining prescription drugs through a prescription drug
4 program or health plan offered by the United States Department of
5 Veterans Affairs. If a nursing home facility patient obtains prescription
6 drugs through a prescription drug program or health plan offered by
7 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the nursing home
8 facility may require such prescription drugs to be dispensed and
9 administered according to the facility's policies.

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

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
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VA *Joint Favorable C/R*

PH

PH *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 11 \$	FY 12 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Should the provisions of the bill result in a Medicaid patient receiving prescription drugs via the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs rather than through the Medicaid program, the Department of Social Services may realize savings. It is not known how many Medicaid nursing home residents may also be eligible for and subsequently take advantage of benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Therefore, the extent of these potential savings is not known. Currently, there are approximately 17,300 Medicaid clients in nursing facilities.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of participating patients.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5351*****AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS FOR VETERANS IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits nursing home facilities from restricting patient access to prescription drugs from any prescription drug program or health plan offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). But it allows the facilities to dispense and administer, in accordance with their policies, drugs patients receive under any such program or plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2010

BACKGROUND***Nursing Home Facility***

By law, a “nursing home facility” means any nursing home or residential care home; rest home with nursing supervision or chronic and convalescent nursing home (CGS § 19a-521).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 9 Nay 0 (03/02/2010)

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/15/2010)