



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 6481

LCO No. 3827

03827_____PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LUPUS
EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PLAN.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) There is established
2 within the Department of Public Health an Interagency and
3 Partnership Advisory Panel on lupus.

4 (b) The advisory panel shall consist of the following members:

5 (1) One appointed by the Governor, as recommended by the
6 Connecticut Medical Society, who shall be a nonphysician medical
7 clinician with significant experience in treating persons with lupus;

8 (2) Four appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health; one of
9 whom shall be a person with lupus recommended by the state chapter
10 of the Lupus Foundation of America; one of whom shall be a scientist
11 from a university based in the state who has experience in lupus and
12 who participates in various fields of scientific endeavor, including, but
13 not limited to, biomedical, social, translational, behavioral or
14 epidemiological research; one of whom shall be a physician with

15 significant experience in treating persons with lupus recommended by
16 the Connecticut Medical Society; and one of whom shall be a
17 representative from the state chapter of the Lupus Foundation of
18 America;

19 (3) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
20 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health or the
21 chairpersons' designees;

22 (4) The ranking members of the joint standing committee of the
23 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
24 health or the ranking members' designees;

25 (5) One appointed by the executive director of the Permanent
26 Commission on the Status of Women;

27 (6) One appointed by the executive director of the African-American
28 Affairs Commission; and

29 (7) One appointed by the executive director of the Latino and Puerto
30 Rican Affairs Commission.

31 (d) All appointments to the advisory panel shall be made not later
32 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Panel members
33 shall serve two-year terms. Any person appointed to be a panel
34 member shall serve not more than two full terms. Any vacancy shall be
35 filled by the appointing authority.

36 (e) The Commissioner of Public Health shall select the chairperson
37 of the advisory panel from among the members of the panel. Such
38 chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which
39 shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this
40 section. The panel shall meet quarterly and at other times upon the call
41 of the chair or upon the majority request of panel members.

42 (f) Seven members of the panel shall constitute a quorum. A
43 majority vote of a quorum shall be required for any official action of

44 the panel.

45 (g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
46 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
47 health shall serve as administrative staff of the advisory panel.

48 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) The Interagency and
49 Partnership Advisory Panel established pursuant to section 1 of this
50 act, shall: (1) Analyze the current state of education on lupus in the
51 state, (2) inventory materials and resources currently available from
52 government agencies, hospitals and lupus advocacy organizations, and
53 (3) identify gaps in the current lupus education modalities in the state
54 through a needs assessment or similar mechanism.

55 (b) Upon completing the needs assessment described in subsection
56 (a) of this section, the advisory panel shall report, in accordance with
57 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of
58 its assessment to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
59 having cognizance of matters relating to public health and to the
60 Department of Public Health. Utilizing the results of such assessment,
61 and with input from the joint standing committee of the General
62 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and
63 the Department of Public Health, the advisory panel shall develop and
64 implement a comprehensive lupus education and awareness plan.

65 (c) The Interagency and Partnership Advisory Panel shall develop
66 and implement a comprehensive plan to improve education and
67 awareness surrounding lupus for health care practitioners, public
68 health personnel, patients and persons who may have lupus. The plan
69 shall include the recommendations on how to best:

70 (1) Distribute medically sound health information on lupus that is
71 endorsed by government agencies, that include, but are not limited to,
72 the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and
73 Prevention and the Social Security Administration, through local
74 health departments, schools, agencies on aging, employer wellness

75 programs, physicians and other health professionals, hospitals, health
76 plans and health maintenance organizations, women's health groups
77 and nonprofit and community-based organizations;

78 (2) Utilize volunteers in the community to distribute brochures and
79 other materials that promote lupus education and awareness;

80 (3) Develop educational materials for health professionals that
81 identify the most recent scientific and medical information and clinical
82 applications regarding the treatment of lupus;

83 (4) Work to increase knowledge among physicians, nurses and
84 health and human services professionals about the importance of
85 lupus diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation;

86 (5) Support continuing medical education programs in the state's
87 leading academic institutions by ensuring that such institutions are
88 provided the most recent scientific and medical information and
89 clinical applications regarding the treatment of lupus;

90 (6) Conduct state-wide workshops and seminars for extensive
91 professional development regarding the care and management of
92 patients with lupus in an effort to bring the latest information on
93 clinical advances to health care providers; and

94 (7) Maintain and develop a directory of lupus-related health care
95 services, that includes a listing of health care providers with
96 specialization in the diagnosis and treatment of lupus and that can be
97 disseminated, within available appropriations, by the Department of
98 Public Health to individuals with lupus, family members of those with
99 lupus, representatives from voluntary organizations, health care
100 professionals, health plans, local health agencies and authorities and to
101 other agencies of the state.

102 (d) The Interagency and Partnership Advisory Panel shall present
103 the initial plan to the Department of Public Health and the joint
104 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of

105 matters relating to public health on or before October 1, 2012. The
106 advisory panel may make periodic revisions to the plan that are
107 consistent with the purposes of this section.

108 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) The Department of Public
109 Health may, within available appropriations, provide assistance to the
110 Interagency and Partnership Advisory Panel established pursuant to
111 section 1 of this act, in carrying out its functions. Such assistance may
112 include, but shall not be limited to, the dissemination of educational
113 materials to state health care providers serving minority populations.
114 The Commissioner of Public Health may accept funds from any source
115 to implement the provisions sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act. The
116 commissioner shall take such actions as the commissioner deems
117 necessary to maximize federal funding to implement the provisions of
118 sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish the lupus awareness and education plan.

[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.]