



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6481

January Session, 2011

* _____HB06481GAE___041311_____*

**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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society, who shall be
7 a nonphysician medical clinician with significant experience in treating
8 persons with lupus;

9 (2) Five appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health; one of
10 whom shall be a person with lupus recommended by the state chapter
11 of the Lupus Foundation of America; one of whom shall be a scientist
12 from a university based in the state who has experience in lupus and
13 who participates in various fields of scientific endeavor, including, but
14 not limited to, biomedical, social, translational, behavioral or
15 epidemiological research recommended by the Medical and Scientific
16 Advisory Council of the state chapter of the Lupus Foundation of
17 America; one of whom shall be a physician with significant experience
18 in treating persons with lupus recommended by the Connecticut

19 Medical Society; one of whom shall be a representative from the state
20 chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America; and one of whom shall
21 be a state resident representing the Lupus Research Institute;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

45 (e) Seven members of the panel shall constitute a quorum. A
46 majority vote of a quorum shall be required for any official action of
47 the panel.

48 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
49 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
50 health shall serve as administrative staff of the advisory panel.

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

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

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

73 (1) Distribute medically sound health information on lupus that is
74 endorsed by government agencies, that include, but are not limited to,
75 the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and
76 Prevention and the Social Security Administration, through local
77 health departments, schools, agencies on aging, employer wellness
78 programs, physicians and other health professionals, hospitals, health
79 plans and health maintenance organizations, women's health groups

80 and nonprofit and community-based organizations;

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

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

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

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

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

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

105 (d) The Interagency and Partnership Advisory Panel shall present
106 the initial plan to the Department of Public Health and the joint
107 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
108 matters relating to public health on or before October 1, 2012. The
109 advisory panel may make periodic revisions to the plan that are

110 consistent with the purposes of this section.

111 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) The Department of Public
112 Health may, within available appropriations, provide assistance to the
113 Interagency and Partnership Advisory Panel established pursuant to
114 section 1 of this act, in carrying out its functions. Such assistance may
115 include, but shall not be limited to, the dissemination of educational
116 materials to state health care providers serving minority populations.
117 The Commissioner of Public Health may accept funds from any source
118 to implement the provisions of sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act. The
119 commissioner shall take such actions as the commissioner deems
120 necessary to maximize federal funding to implement the provisions of
121 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

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

GAE *Joint Favorable*