
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6370

AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSIDIZED ASSISTED LIVING.

SUMMARY:

This bill expands eligibility for the subsidized assisted living services demonstration project to include people (1) age 65 or older with persistent and severe psychiatric disabilities and (2) eligible for the home and community-based program operated by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), otherwise known as the mental health waiver program (see BACKGROUND).

Currently, an applicant must be eligible for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE), which provides Medicaid and state-funded home and community-based services to individuals age 65 and older as an alternative to nursing home care.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, established the subsidized assisted living services demonstration project for people living in affordable housing. The project serves subsidized assisted living communities in Glastonbury, Hartford, Middletown, and Seymour. Maximum participation is capped at 300 subsidized dwelling units. There is currently a waiting list for each location.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

Mental Health Waiver

DMHAS, with DSS oversight, currently operates the mental health waiver program. The program, authorized under a federal Medicaid

Section 1915(c) waiver, provides home and community based services for Medicaid-eligible adults who need nursing home levels of care and have a diagnosis of serious mental illness. The program currently serves approximately 550 people.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (02/19/2013)