



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 322**

February Session, 2014



**AN ACT CONNECTING THE PUBLIC TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 38a-1041 of the general statutes is amended by  
2 adding subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3 (NEW) (g) Not later than January 1, 2015, the Office of the  
4 Healthcare Advocate shall establish an information and referral service  
5 to help residents and providers receive behavioral health care  
6 information, timely referrals and access to behavioral health care  
7 providers. In developing and implementing such service, the  
8 Healthcare Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee, shall: (1)  
9 Collaborate with stakeholders, including, but not limited to, (A) state  
10 agencies, (B) the Behavioral Health Partnership established pursuant to  
11 section 17a-22h, (C) community collaboratives, (D) the United Way's 2-  
12 1-1 Infoline program, and (E) providers; (2) identify any basis that  
13 prevents residents from obtaining adequate and timely behavioral  
14 health care services, including, but not limited to, (A) gaps in private  
15 behavioral health care services and coverage, and (B) barriers to access  
16 to care; (3) coordinate a public awareness and educational campaign  
17 directing residents to the information and referral service; and (4)  
18 develop data reporting mechanisms to determine the effectiveness of  
19 the service, including, but not limited to, tracking (A) the number of

20 referrals to providers by type and location of providers, (B) waiting  
21 time for services, and (C) the number of providers who accept or reject  
22 requests for service based on type of health care coverage. Not later  
23 than February 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the Office of the  
24 Healthcare Advocate shall submit a report, in accordance with the  
25 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the  
26 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,  
27 human services, public health and insurance. The report shall identify  
28 gaps in services and the resources needed to improve behavioral  
29 health care options for residents.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	38a-1041

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In section 1, in the first sentence, "providers receive information" was changed to "providers receive behavioral health care information" for clarity.

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*