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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 244**

#### ***AN ACT INCREASING HOME CARE PROVIDER RATES.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill severs the tie linking rates for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) to those for other home-based services. Instead, it requires the social services commissioner to increase the fee schedule for services provided under CHCPE and the pilot program to provide home-care services to persons with disabilities by at least 2%, effective July 1, 2014. By June 30, 2015, the commissioner must determine an additional increase based on the cost of services and implement it in FY 16. Currently, the maximum allowable rate for CHCPE is the rate set for the services listed below.

The bill also requires, rather than allows, the commissioner to annually increase the fees for the following services based on cost: home-health, home-care, homemaker, chore person, companion, respite care, meals-on-wheels, adult day care, case management and assessment, transportation, mental health counseling, and elderly foster care.

The bill also removes obsolete language regarding the payment rate for home-based services in the 1990s and makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Program Descriptions***

CHCPE is a Medicaid waiver and state-funded program that provides home- and community-based services for eligible individuals age 65 and older who are at risk of institutionalization. The pilot program to provide home-care services to disabled persons is a state-funded program that provides home- and community-based services

to persons age 18 to 64 who are at risk of institutionalization.

***Related Bills***

HB 5223, reported favorably by the Aging Committee, requires the commissioner to increase the fee schedule for meals-on-wheels to cover reasonable costs and reduce copayments by participants in CHCPE. The bill also requires, rather than allows, the commissioner to increase annually the fee schedule for several services based on cost.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)