
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 417 (as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF PSYCHIATRIC AND SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT SERVICES.

SUMMARY:

This bill allows a "multi-care institution" to offer certain health services at locations not listed on its license. It does so by eliminating the requirement that the Department of Public Health (DPH) issue a license only for the premises and persons named in the application. The bill also specifies a multi-care institution license application process and allows DPH to adopt regulations to implement its provisions.

The bill also broadens the licensure requirements for certain institutions. The law requires licensure of home health care agencies, homemaker-home health aide agencies, and homemaker-home health aide services only if they are not otherwise required to be licensed by the state. The bill broadens this provision to also include other health care institutions, including hospitals, nursing homes, residential care homes, mental health facilities, and alcohol or drug treatment facilities.

*Senate Amendment "A" (1) broadens the bill's (File 458) scope from facilities providing outpatient psychiatric services to multi-care institutions offering a range of services, (2) adds the licensing provisions, (3) allows DPH to adopt regulations, and (4) increases the types of health care facilities required to be licensed if not otherwise licensed by the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

MULTI-CARE INSTITUTION

Definition

The bill defines a multi-care institution as a licensed hospital,

psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults, free-standing facility for the care or treatment of people with substance abusive or dependent persons, hospital for psychiatric disabilities, or a general acute care hospital that provides outpatient psychiatric services that (1) has more than one facility or one or more satellite units owned and operated by a single licensee and (2) offers complex patient health care services at each facility or satellite unit. The bill does not define “complex patient health care services.”

Medical Services

The bill allows a multi-care institution to provide behavioral health services or substance use disorder treatment services on the premises of more than one facility, at a satellite unit, or at another location outside of its facilities or satellite units that is acceptable to the patient and consistent with his or her treatment plan. These services may be offered under the terms of its existing license.

Application Process

A multi-care institution that intends to offer services at a satellite unit or other location outside of its facilities or satellite units must apply to DPH for approval of the off-site location. The application must be a on a form and made in the manner prescribed by the commissioner. Within 45 days of receipt, the commissioner must notify the multi-care institution of her decision to approve or deny the application.

If the location is approved, it must be deemed licensed and is required to comply with the applicable requirements. This would allow DPH to, among other things, conduct investigations and take other actions to ensure compliance with applicable licensure laws and regulations.

Regulations

The bill allows the commissioner to adopt regulations to execute the multi-care institution provisions. It also allows the commissioner to implement policies and procedures necessary while in the process of adopting regulations, provided that she prints a notice of intent to

adopt regulations in the Connecticut Law Journal within 20 days after the date of implementation. The bill specifies that policies and procedures implemented in this way are valid until final regulations are adopted.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/25/2014)