



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 383**

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 325

*Senate, April 7, 2014*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID RECIPIENTS WITH COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-278i of the 2014 supplement  
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in  
3 lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

4 (a) Customized wheelchairs shall be covered under the Medicaid  
5 program only when a standard wheelchair does not meet an  
6 individual's needs as determined by the Department of Social Services.  
7 Wheelchair repairs and parts replacements may be subject to review  
8 and approval by the department. Refurbished wheelchairs, parts and  
9 components shall be utilized whenever practicable for purchases made  
10 as part of (1) the Department of Rehabilitation Services program  
11 established pursuant to section 17b-661, and (2) the Birth-to-Three  
12 program established pursuant to sections 17a-248 to 17a-248h,  
13 inclusive. The Department of Social Services may designate categories  
14 of durable medical equipment in addition to customized wheelchairs

15 for which reused equipment, parts and components shall be utilized  
16 whenever practicable.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-278i(a)

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state. The bill limits the use of refurbished wheelchairs and parts to Medicaid clients served by the Department of Rehabilitation Services or the Birth-to-Three Program, in accordance with current practice. The Department of Social Services does not currently utilize refurbished components for Medicaid clients served outside of these agencies/programs.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 325*****AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID RECIPIENTS WITH COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill limits a provision requiring the use of refurbished wheelchairs, parts, and components in the repair or provision of customized wheelchairs for Medicaid recipients. By law, Medicaid covers customized wheelchairs only when a standard wheelchair will not meet a person's needs, as the Department of Social Services (DSS) determines.

Current law requires the use of refurbished wheelchairs, parts, and components whenever practicable. The bill instead requires it only for purchases by the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) or the Birth-to-Three Program, whenever practicable.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, allows DSS to designate categories of durable medical equipment in addition to customized wheelchairs for which reused equipment, parts, and components must be used whenever practicable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

**BACKGROUND*****DORS***

DORS provides vocational rehabilitation services to assist people with significant disabilities to find and keep employment. DORS also provides disability determination services for applicants for certain benefits and provides comprehensive independent living services through contracts with community-based independent living centers.

By law, DORS may purchase, without the issuance of a purchase order, (1) wheelchairs and placement equipment, at a cost of up to \$3,500 per unit; (2) adaptive equipment, at a cost of up to \$10,000 per unit; and (3) modified vehicles for persons with disabilities, at a cost of up to \$25,000 per vehicle.

### ***Birth-to-Three Program***

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) administers the Birth-to-Three program, which provides early intervention services to children eligible under Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Under Part C, a child under age three needs early intervention services if he or she (1) is experiencing developmental delays as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures in one or more of the areas of cognitive, physical, communication, social or emotional, and adaptive development or (2) has a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/20/2014)