



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Raised Bill No. 1009**

LCO No. 4251



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES WHO  
HAVE COURT-APPOINTED CONSERVATORS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Commissioner of Social  
2 Services shall designate staff to expedite Medicaid eligibility  
3 determinations and redeterminations filed by a court-appointed  
4 conservator on behalf of a person with mental disabilities. To the  
5 extent permissible under federal law, the commissioner may extend  
6 the period of Medicaid eligibility for any person with mental  
7 disabilities who has a court-appointed conservator.

8 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) There is established a task force to  
9 study issues concerning conservatorships for persons with mental  
10 disabilities. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, (1)  
11 compensation provided to attorneys and other persons who are  
12 appointed by the courts to represent such persons, (2) the  
13 qualifications and training needed to be appointed a conservator for  
14 such persons, (3) the allocation and amount of funding and resources  
15 to provide services for such persons, and (4) barriers to public

16 assistance posed by the mental disabilities of such persons and ways to  
17 streamline eligibility determinations and redeterminations.

18 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

19 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
20 one of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut chapter of the  
21 National Alliance for the Mentally Ill;

22 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
23 of whom shall be a public assistance recipient with mental disabilities  
24 or his or her conservator;

25 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
26 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Probate Court  
27 Administrator's office;

28 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
29 a provider of support services for persons with mental disabilities who  
30 have a court-appointed conservator;

31 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
32 Representatives, who shall be a person who is not an attorney who has  
33 been appointed as a conservator to represent such persons;

34 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
35 an attorney who has been appointed as a conservator to represent such  
36 persons;

37 (7) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's  
38 designee; and

39 (8) The Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or  
40 the commissioner's designee.

41 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than  
42 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be

43 filled by the appointing authority.

44 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
45 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force  
46 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall  
47 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not  
48 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

49 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
50 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
51 health shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

52 (f) Not later than January 1, 2016, the task force shall submit a report  
53 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees  
54 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
55 judiciary, public health and human services, in accordance with the  
56 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall  
57 terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2016,  
58 whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To streamline Medicaid eligibility determinations for persons with mental disabilities who have court-appointed conservators and to study issues concerning the effective delivery of services to such persons.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*