



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 153

February Session, 2016

House Bill No. 5452

House of Representatives, March 23, 2016

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 1st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A PRESCRIPTION DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-132e of the 2016 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

4 (a) The University of Connecticut [Health Center shall, in
5 consultation with the Yale University School of Medicine,] School of
6 Medicine, The University of Connecticut School of Nursing, the Health
7 Care Costs Containment Committee, as defined in section 3-123rrr, and
8 the Commissioner of Social Services shall, within existing budgetary
9 resources, jointly develop, implement and promote an evidence-based
10 outreach and education program concerning the therapeutic and cost-
11 effective utilization of prescription drugs for the benefit of licensed
12 physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals authorized
13 to prescribe and dispense prescription drugs. [In developing such
14 program, The University of Connecticut Health Center shall consider

15 whether such program may be developed in coordination with, or as a
16 part of, the Connecticut Area Health Education Center.]

17 (b) The program [established pursuant to subsection (a) of this
18 section shall: (1) Arrange] (1) may arrange for licensed physicians,
19 pharmacists and nurses to conduct in person educational visits with
20 prescribing practitioners, utilizing evidence-based materials,
21 borrowing methods from behavioral science and educational theory
22 and, when appropriate, utilizing pharmaceutical industry data and
23 outreach techniques; [(2) inform prescribing practitioners about drug
24 marketing that is designed to prevent competition to brand name
25 drugs from generic or other therapeutically equivalent pharmaceutical
26 alternatives or other evidence-based treatment options; and (3)] and (2)
27 shall provide outreach and education to licensed physicians and other
28 health care practitioners who are participating providers in state-
29 funded health care programs, including, but not limited to, Medicaid,
30 the HUSKY Health program, the Department of Correction inmate
31 health services program and the state employees' health insurance
32 plan.

33 (c) The [University of Connecticut Health Center] program shall, to
34 the extent feasible, utilize or incorporate [into the program] other
35 independent educational resources or models that are proven to be
36 effective in disseminating high quality, evidenced-based, cost-effective
37 information to prescribing practitioners regarding the effectiveness
38 and safety of prescription drugs. [Such other resources or models that
39 The University of Connecticut Health Center reviews shall include: (1)
40 The Pennsylvania PACE Independent Drug Information Service
41 affiliated with the Harvard Medical School; (2) the Vermont Academic
42 Detailing Program sponsored by the University of Vermont College of
43 Medicine Office of Primary Care; and (3) the Drug Effectiveness
44 Review project conducted by the Oregon Health and Science
45 University Evidence-based Practice Center.]

46 (d) The [University of Connecticut Health Center shall] University
47 of Connecticut or the Commissioner of Social Services may seek

48 federal funds and The University of Connecticut and the Health Care
 49 Costs Containment Committee may seek funding from
 50 nongovernmental health access foundations, for the administration
 51 and operation of the program. [In addition, The University of
 52 Connecticut Health Center may seek funding from nongovernmental
 53 health access foundations for the program. The University of
 54 Connecticut Health Center shall not be required to develop, implement
 55 and promote the program described in this section, if federal, state and
 56 private funds in the aggregate are insufficient to pay for the initial and
 57 ongoing expenses of such program.]

58 (e) Not later than January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, The
 59 University of Connecticut School of Medicine, The University of
 60 Connecticut School of Nursing, the Health Care Costs Containment
 61 Committee and the Commissioner of Social Services shall jointly
 62 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint
 63 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 64 matters relating to public health on the status of the program,
 65 including, but not limited to, the program's effectiveness in reducing
 66 state spending on prescription drugs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2016	10a-132e

PH *Joint Favorable*

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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 17 \$	FY 18 \$
UConn Health Ctr.	GF - Cost	434,115	434,115
Comptroller- Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	173,385	173,385

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the state of \$607,500 as it would require additional staff at the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC). Costs would include \$434,115 in salaries for four full-time positions and one part-time position and \$173,385 in corresponding fringe benefits.

The UCHC would require three Pharmacists (counter detailers), a Program Assistant and the support of a one-quarter faculty position. The Pharmacists would “counter” the advertising and marketing efforts of drug manufacturers with the goal of getting doctors and prescribers to prescribe generics and other low-cost alternatives. Content of the program would be developed with faculty support. The Program Assistant would provide scheduling, develop measures, collect data and perform other administrative duties.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 39.94% of payroll in FY 17 and FY 18.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5452*****AN ACT CONCERNING A PRESCRIPTION DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes several changes to UConn's evidence-based outreach and education program on the therapeutic and cost-effective use of prescription drugs (known as "academic detailing"). The program is directed at licensed health care providers authorized to prescribe and dispense prescription drugs.

The bill requires UConn's medical and nursing schools, the state Health Care Cost Containment Committee, and the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to jointly develop, implement, and promote the program, within existing budgetary resources. Current law instead requires the UConn Health Center, in consultation with Yale University School of Medicine, to do so, but only if funding is sufficient to pay for the program's initial and ongoing expenses. (In practice, the program has not yet been established.)

The bill removes certain program requirements, makes other changes affecting the program's operation, and requires annual reporting to the Public Health Committee on the program's status.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND OPERATION

The bill:

1. allows, rather than requires, the outreach and education program to arrange for physicians, pharmacists, and nurses to

conduct in-person educational visits with prescribing practitioners;

2. removes the requirement that the program inform prescribing practitioners about drug marketing designed to prevent competition to brand name drugs from generic drugs, other therapeutically equivalent pharmaceuticals, or other evidence-based treatments; and
3. removes the requirement that UConn, in developing the program, consider whether it may be developed in coordination with or as a part of the Connecticut Area Health Education Center.

Under existing law, the program must include, as feasible, other independent educational resources or models proven effective in providing high quality, evidence-based, cost-effective information to prescribers on drug effectiveness and safety. The bill removes specific references to three such resources or models.

The bill allows UConn or DSS to seek federal funds for the program, instead of requiring the UConn Health Center to seek such funds as under current law. It also allows UConn and the Health Care Cost Containment Committee to seek funding for the program from nongovernmental health access foundations; current law allows the UConn Health Center to do so.

ANNUAL REPORTING

The bill requires UConn's medical and nursing schools, the Health Care Cost Containment Committee, and the DSS commissioner to annually report to the Public Health Committee on the program's status, including its effectiveness in reducing state prescription drug spending. The first report is due by January 1, 2017.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/07/2016)