

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5155

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WAIVER OF LICENSING FEES

Title: FOR PRIVATE PROVIDERS.

Vote Date: 3/9/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/28/2018

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following Joint Favorable Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Health Committee and Department of Developmental Services

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill amends Sec. 1. Subsection (c) of 17a-227 of the General Statutes to allow the Department of Developmental Services to waive the licensure fees for providers seeking a license to operate DDS-licensed community living arrangements.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commissioner Paul Pino, Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH): The proposed legislation will revise Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 17a-227 of the General Statutes, to permit the Department of Developmental Services to waive the application fee for private providers. Per Special Act 17-21 required the Department of Public Health reevaluated licensure and certification processes, concluding that the proposed amendments will reduce administrative burdens during the licensure and certification processes.

Commissioner Jordan A. Scheff, Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS): This legislation will reduce provider burdens, and increase proficiency, by eliminating processing and collecting licensing fees. Also, by allowing the waiver of licensing fees, the state will save money as the fee is currently an allowable cost for providers, which means that in many cases the state ends up paying for it anyways.

DDS recommends the addition of the language, "Such licensing applications shall not be required to be notarized." Amending Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 17a-227 of the General Statutes, eliminating DDS regulatory provisions that applications must be notarized.

Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS): Per the working group, required by Special Act 17-21, the cross-agency Lean determined that in passing House Bill 5155 licensure procedures will be more time and cost effective for the state. DMHAS publicly supports the workgroup recommendations, including HB5155.

Connecticut Department of Children and Family Services (DCF): After conducting the week-long Lean, per Special Act 17-21, DCF supports House Bill 5155. This legislation will promote efficiency in the licensing process by allowing the commissioner to bypass lengthy and costly current procedures for licensing of private providers.

Senator Michael McLachlan, Twenty-Fourth State District, Connecticut General Assembly: Senator McLachlan supports the option to waive licensure fees for Community Living Arrangements and group homes, by the commissioner of DDS. By taking recommendations, resulting from November 2017's week-long Lean, per Special Act 17-21 House Bill 5155 will promote lean government and efficiency to the process of licensure in the state of Connecticut.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Stan Soby, Vice President, Public Policy and External Affairs at Oak Hill: Pursuant to Special Act 17-21 multiple agencies convened for a Licensure and Certification Workshop concluded that House Bill 5155 would be a valuable resource to prevent redundancy and inefficient systems for certifications. Oak Hill supports the passing of this proposed legislation to lessen the administrative burden on private providers; as well as, continuing to support Special Act 17-21.

Anne L. Ruwet, Chief Executive Officer, CCARC: Passing House Bill 5155 will lessen the administrative burden for the Connecticut's licensure and certification processes by streamlining and standardizing the procedure for community providers. In doing so, it will provide the basis for improving quality of care to those in need by removing burdens from those charged with caring for those serviced by Community Living Arrangements.

CCARC recommends the removal of the notarization requirement for applications of licensure for group homes. It will cut down on time, cost, and the use of paper.

Kevin Zingler, Executive Director, MARC, Inc.: Eliminating the \$50 licensing fee will release an administrative burden to both private providers and the state, who operate Community Living Arrangements.

MARC, Inc. recommends the removal of the notarization requirement for applications of licensure for group homes. It will cut down on time, cost, and the use of paper.

Mary Beth O'Neill, President and Chief Executive Officer, Key Human Services, Inc.: Recommendations resulted from the cross-collaboration, of multiple agencies, per Special

Act 17-21 to reduce administrative and financial burdens on community providers. House Bill 5155 will reduce paper processes by utilizing electronic capabilities. In turn, it will enhance accuracy and reduce costs, for the state and private providers.

Key Human Services recommends the removal of the notarization requirement for applications of licensure for group homes. It will cut down on time, cost, and the use of paper.

Brunilda Ferraj, Director of Policy Research & Organizational Initiatives, CT

Community Nonprofit Alliance: Eliminating the \$50 licensing fee, per HB5155, will release an administrative burden to those who operate Community Living Arrangements. By allowing the waiver of fee it will also streamline and standardize licensure and certifications in the state per the results of Special Act 17-21's November 2017 Lean.

CT Community Nonprofit Alliance recommends the removal of the notarization requirement for applications of licensure for group homes. It will cut down on time, cost, and the use of paper.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

Reported by: Anne Gallagher

03/12/2018