
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7163 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES.

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, beginning July 1, 2020, to annually increase the reimbursement rate for meals-on-wheels providers under the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (see BACKGROUND) by at least the consumer price index's cost of living adjustment. It also allows the commissioner to further increase a provider's rate if the provider submits evidence of extraordinary costs related to delivering these meals in sparsely populated rural areas of the state.

Under current law, the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) must (1) review, in consultation with the five area agencies on aging (AAAs), its method for allocating federal Older Americans Act (OAA) funds to the AAAs for supportive services and elderly nutrition and (2) report any findings and recommendations from its review to the Appropriations and Human Services committees. The bill adds service level and cost data to this reporting requirement and requires elderly nutrition program providers to annually provide DORS with such information.

The bill also requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), as part of its quality of care program for licensed health care facilities (e.g., hospitals and nursing homes), to develop recommendations on collecting and analyzing data on patient malnutrition to improve quality of care. By law, the program must develop a standardized data set to measure health care facilities' clinical performance and require such data to be periodically collected and reported to DPH.

Additionally, the bill makes technical changes throughout statute in

reference to the Department of Rehabilitative Services (DORS) being renamed the “Department of Aging and Disability Services” and adds the new agency title to the statutory list of executive branch agencies.

Lastly, it deletes obsolete provisions, including two references to the Department of Aging. PA 18-169 transferred the functions, powers, duties, and personnel of the former State Department on Aging from DSS to DORS.

*House Amendment “A” adds the provisions about (1) meals-on-wheels provider reimbursement rates, (2) an additional DORS reporting requirement, and (3) DPH recommendations on collecting and analyzing patient malnutrition data.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019, except the three amendment provisions referenced above are effective July 1, 2019, and two technical changes are effective July 1, 2020.

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE)

CHCPE is a Medicaid waiver and state-funded program that provides a range of home- and community-based services for eligible individuals age 65 and older who are at risk of institutionalization. To be eligible for CHCPE, individuals must be under income and asset limits.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/19/2019)