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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 7359**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Health and Human Services Network to make recommendations to state legislative, executive, and judicial branches concerning health and human services delivery to LGBTQ people in the state. It establishes the network's membership and charges it with, among other things, working to build a safer and healthier environment for LGBTQ persons.

The bill appropriates \$250,000 to the Department of Public Health (DPH) from the General Fund for FY 20. It directs the funding to be used to (1) assist the network to conduct a needs analysis and (2) fund DPH grants to organizations that further the network's mission. It requires DPH to award such grants based on requests for proposals (RFPs) developed in consultation with the network.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **LGBTQ HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK**

##### ***Responsibilities***

The bill requires the network to build a safer and healthier environment for LGBTQ persons by:

1. conducting a needs analysis, within available appropriations;
2. collecting additional data on the health and human services needs of such persons, as necessary;
3. submitting reports at least biennially to the Appropriations,

Human Services, and Public Health committees (and other committees, as necessary), governor, and chief court administrator;

4. assisting DPH with developing RFPs for grants awarded under the bill; and
5. building organizational member capacity, leadership, and advocacy across the geographic and social spectrum of the LGBTQ community.

### **Membership**

Under the bill, network membership includes the following executive officers (or their designees), serving at the will of the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore, who may also set their term limits:

1. the executive directors of the following organizations: AIDS Connecticut; the commissions on Equity and Opportunity and Women, Children, and Seniors; Connecticut chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN); Connecticut Transadvocacy Coalition; Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective; New Haven Pride Center; Queer Unity Empowerment Support Team; Rainbow Center at the University of Connecticut; Safe Harbor Project; Triangle Community Center in Norwalk; and True Colors, Inc.; and
2. the presidents of Connecticut Latinas/os Achieving Rights and Opportunities (CLARO) and OutCT in New London.

Its membership also includes the following appointees (or their designees):

1. a House speaker-appointed LGBTQ licensed physician;
2. an LGBT veteran care coordinator assigned to a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care facility in the state, appointed by the Senate president pro tempore; and

3. a Governor-appointed member of the LGBT Aging Advocacy coalition.

The bill requires appointments to be made within 60 days of its effective date. It directs the House speaker, in consultation with the Senate president pro tempore, to fill any vacancies, and allows them to each appoint additional members. Under the bill, the administrative staff of the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors must provide the network's administrative support.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18    Nay 1    (03/26/2019)