
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7359 (as amended by House "A" and "C")*

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.

Within available appropriations, the bill directs \$250,000 to the Department of Public Health (DPH) from the General Fund for FY 20. It requires the funding to be used to (1) assist the network in conducting a needs analysis and (2) fund DPH grants to organizations that further the network's mission.

*House Amendment "A" (1) eliminates provisions in the underlying bill requiring the network to assist DPH in developing requests for proposals (RFPs) for grant funding and DPH to award such grants based on these RFPs and (2) adds an additional network member and specifies that members choose the chairpersons.

*House Amendment "C" requires that the \$250,000 appropriation to DPH be made within available appropriations.

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; and
4. building organizational member capacity, leadership, and advocacy across the geographic and social spectrum of the LGBTQ community.

Membership

Under the bill, the network's 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), OutCT in New London, and Connecticut Community Care.

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 the appointments 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, network members must choose the chairpersons, and 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)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 39 Nay 6 (05/13/2019)