
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 394

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL ON PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a 20-member Council on Protecting Women's Health to advise the Public Health and Insurance committees on strategies and any necessary legislative changes to ensure that the federal government does not impede the provision of health care to women in Connecticut.

The bill requires the council to (1) monitor federal legislation and any litigation relating to women's health and wellness that could negatively impact women's health in the state and (2) immediately report to the committees on strategies, including initiating legislation, to protect women's health. The council must meet at least quarterly.

Under the bill, the council consists of (1) six public officials or their designees and (2) 14 public members appointed by the legislative leaders. Its membership must fairly and adequately represent women who have had issues accessing quality health care in the state.

Starting by January 1, 2020, the council must annually submit a status report to the Public Health and Insurance committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND PROCEDURES

Under the bill, the council includes the following officials or their designees, as ex-officio voting members:

1. public health, insurance, and mental health and addiction services commissioners;
2. Office of Health Strategy executive director;

3. Healthcare Advocate; and
4. Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management.

The council also includes 14 public members, appointed as follows: three each appointed by the Senate president pro tempore and House speaker and two each appointed by the Senate and House majority and minority leaders. The members must be knowledgeable on issues relating to women's health care in the state.

The bill requires council appointments to be made by August 30, 2019. Members serve two-year terms. Public members may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The appropriate appointing authority fills any vacancy.

Council members serve without compensation, except for necessary expenses. The council must elect two co-chairpersons from among its members.

The bill requires the Joint Committee on Legislative Management to provide administrative support to the council's chairpersons and help with convening council meetings.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/08/2019)