



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 214**

January Session, 2019

Senate Bill No. 394

*Senate, March 28, 2019*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) There is established a  
2 Council on Protecting Women's Health that shall advise the joint  
3 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
4 matters relating to public health and insurance on strategies and any  
5 necessary legislative changes to ensure that the actions of the federal  
6 government do not impede the provision of health care to women in  
7 the state. The council shall monitor legislation at the federal level and  
8 any litigation relating to women's health and wellness that has the  
9 potential to negatively impact women's health in the state and  
10 immediately report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
11 of the general statutes, to such joint standing committees on strategies,  
12 including, but not limited to, the initiation of legislation to protect  
13 women's health in the state.

14 (b) The Council on Protecting Women's Health shall be comprised

15 of (1) the following ex-officio voting members: (A) The Commissioner  
16 of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee; (B) the  
17 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the  
18 commissioner's designee; (C) the Insurance Commissioner, or the  
19 commissioner's designee; (D) the executive director of Office of Health  
20 Strategy, or the executive director's designee; (E) the Healthcare  
21 Advocate, or the Healthcare Advocate's designee; and (F) the Secretary  
22 of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee;  
23 and (2) fourteen public members, three of whom shall be appointed by  
24 the president pro tempore of the Senate, three of whom shall be  
25 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, two of  
26 whom shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, two of  
27 whom shall be appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
28 Representatives, two of whom shall be appointed by the minority  
29 leader of the Senate and two of whom shall be appointed by the  
30 minority leader of the House of Representatives, and all of whom shall  
31 be knowledgeable on issues relative to women's health care in the  
32 state. The membership of the council shall fairly and adequately  
33 represent women who have had issues accessing quality health care in  
34 the state.

35 (c) All appointments to the council shall be made not later than sixty  
36 days after July 1, 2019. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing  
37 authority. Members shall serve two-year terms and no public member  
38 shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.

39 (d) The council shall elect two cochairpersons from among its  
40 members. The council shall meet at least quarterly. Members of the  
41 council shall serve without compensation, except for necessary  
42 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

43 (e) The Joint Committee on Legislative Management shall provide  
44 administrative support to the chairpersons of the council and  
45 assistance in convening the council's meetings.

46 (f) Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the  
47 council shall submit a status report on protecting women's health care

48 in the state, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
49 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General  
50 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and  
51 insurance.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
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**PH**      *Joint Favorable*

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*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill establishes a 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 healthcare to women in Connecticut.

The council shall annually submit a status report including its findings and recommendations to the Public Health and Insurance Committees beginning in January 1, 2020.

This bill has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for council members.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**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)