



PA 19-70—SB 394

Public Health Committee

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL ON PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH

SUMMARY: This act 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 act 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 act, 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 act, 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 by the Senate president pro tempore and House speaker and two each 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. Council appointments must be made by August 30, 2019.

Under the act, 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 act requires the Joint Committee on Legislative Management to provide administrative support to the council's chairpersons and help convene council

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meetings.