



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Committee Bill No. 394**

LCO No. 4881



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**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:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To ensure quality health care for women.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

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