



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	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
-----------	---------------------	-------------

PH *Joint Favorable*