OLR Bill Analysis
HB 7166

AN ACT CONCERNING NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES.

SUMMARY

The bill prohibits the Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner, or a transportation brokerage vendor contracting with him, from:

1. failing or refusing to provide nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries;

2. exceeding a 15-minute wait for a scheduled pickup or 30-minute wait for return trips, unless there are documented weather or traffic emergencies that impede access;

3. providing a mode of transportation other than the one requested by the Medicaid beneficiary, provided it is medically necessary; or

4. maintaining a provider network incapable of meeting the NEMT needs of the state’s Medicaid beneficiaries.

It also permits Medicaid beneficiaries who are denied medically necessary NEMT to seek injunctive relief from the Superior Court. Under the bill, the court may order DSS to impose penalties on the vendor as required by its contract with the vendor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

NEMT

Federal law requires state Medicaid programs to provide an assurance that NEMT will be available to transport Medicaid recipients
to and from medically necessary appointments. DSS regulations generally require that NEMT be provided when needed to obtain necessary medical services covered by Medicaid. In Connecticut, DSS provides this service through a transportation broker who arranges for rides when recipients call in with a request. DSS, through its broker, determines the least expensive, most appropriate mode of transportation.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 12  Nay 6  (03/07/2019)