Bill No.: HB-6544
Title: AN ACT PROHIBITING DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER GENETIC TESTING COMPANIES FROM SHARING GENETIC DATA WITH HEALTH CARRIERS OR LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.
Vote Date: 3/29/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/25/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
This legislation obliges direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies to keep a consumer's genetic data confidential.

Substitute language: Proposes an expansion to the scope of practice of naturopaths. The additional language states that the State Board of Naturopathic Examiners, in conjunction with the Department of Public Health, may work to establish educational requirements for naturopaths to administer medication and create a naturopathic formulary for prescribing medications, except opioids.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Cheryl Sharp, Deputy Director, State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO): The Commission supports this legislation, which restricts consumer genetic-testing companies from providing genetic information to insurance companies. CHRO enforces the state’s existing legislation that prevents discrimination based on genetic information and thus, they support this proposed bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Eric George, President, Insurance Association of Connecticut (IAC): IAC supports the concept of the bill, which states that direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies cannot share personal data without consent. IAC represents some of the largest life insurance
companies and notes that these companies have a statement of assurance that consumers’ information will not be shared. However, the IAC expresses concern that this bill will remove a consumer’s right to decide if they would like to share their information or not. Given the bill’s current language, a consumer would be limited in controlling their own data. The Association would support language that prohibits companies from sharing a consumers’ genetic data, while still enabling individuals to decide if and with whom they would like to share their information. The goal would be to implement some form of written consent that would allow the consumer to approve who their information is released to.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None submitted.

Reported by: Meagan Schantz  
Date: 4/4/19