Bill No.: HB-7092
Title: AN ACT EXPANDING THE KATIE BECKETT WAIVER PROGRAM.
Vote Date: 3/5/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 2/19/2019
File No.: 

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
This bill would require the Department of Social Services to expand the Katie Beckett Waiver Program waiting list, in which provides home and community based services to Medicaid recipients; up to the age of 21, with a developmental disability and meets the financial eligibility criteria cap.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Kathleen Brennan, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services; emphasizes the originality of the waiver was a 200 slot model waiver that was expanded to 300 slots in 2014. Deputy Commissioner Brennan measures the average Medicaid cost per Katie Beckett participant is $33,340 per year, concluding that the expansion of this program would result in additional funding that is unavailable.

Steven Hernandez, Executive Director, Commission on women, Children & Seniors and Commission on Equity & Opportunity; recommends that the state should amend its plan or adopt state regulations that clarify autism spectrum disorders as a covered benefit when medically necessary and provided by qualified Medicaid providers. Executive Director, Steven Hernandez is in support of this legislation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Themis Klarides, House Republican Minority Leader, Representative 114th District, Connecticut General Assembly; is in support of this bill. Rep. Klarides notes, “The major
component of this program is funding and acknowledges the Committee’s support of this measure will help guide further discussions in the Appropriations Committee as it prepares its FY 2021 biennium budget”.

Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut; supports this legislation due to the high level of care required for individuals with epilepsy and the financial burdens placed upon families in Connecticut.

Shelagh McClure, Vice Chair, Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities; stresses the importance of this bill in providing Medicaid home and community-based services for children. She specifies the preference of parents wanting to keep their children with these severe disabilities at home or in their community instead of an institution while receiving these services.

Molly Cole, Past Director, Connecticut of the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities; submitted testimony in support of this legislation based off the experience and services received from the Katie Beckett Waiver Program for her daughter with developmental disabilities. Ms. Cole states the waiver provides financial stability for struggling families.

Claire Dych, Parent; strongly expresses the need for increased funding to be allocated to the Katie Beckett Waiver Program. As a parent of a young child with developmental disabilities, she is required daily therapies; several medications and the service of eight specialists in order to improve her condition. In addition to Mrs. Dych’s support, twenty-six members of her community provided testimony in support of this legislation.

Sheila Dardis; is in support of this legislation in order for children with complex medical issues and disabilities to use Medicaid as secondary insurance.

Carla Schneider, Founder/CEO, WubbaNub; is in supports this legislation.
Sara Young; is in support of this legislation.
Lisa Laudano; is in support of this legislation.
Allison Marcinek; is in support of this legislation.
Bernadette Louros; is in support of this legislation.
Danielle Trayes; is in support of this legislation.
Cristina Johns; is in support of this legislation.
Megan Schuman; is in support of this legislation.
Linda van Steenbergen; is in support of this legislation.
Kimberly Shea; is in support of this legislation.
Karen Earls; is in support of this legislation.
Diane Pryor; is in support of this legislation.
Jennifer Covino; is in support of this legislation.
Cristina Damo Armstrong; is in support of this legislation.
Catherine Riviello; is in support of this legislation.
Cathi Greenstein; is in support of this legislation.
Michelle Brown; is in support of this legislation.
Jeanette Young; is in support of this legislation.
Sinthy Khamsaeng; is in support of this legislation.
Brian Festa; is in support of this legislation.
Shannon Knall; is in support of this legislation.
Kristen Festa; is in support of this legislation.
Lauren Scarlett; is in support of this legislation.
Kalpesh Patel; is in support of this legislation.
Kevin Downs; is in support of this legislation.
Beth Fox; is in support of this legislation.
Jayne Young; is in support of this legislation.
Elaine Ricardi; is in support of this legislation.
Emily McKennan; is in support of this legislation.
Amy Leyerzapf; is in support of this legislation.
Denise Hennessy; is in support of this legislation.
Judy Primavera; is in support of this legislation.
Melody Esposito; is in support of this legislation.
Gina Soldra; is in support of this legislation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Kathleen Brennan, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services; is in opposition of this bill.

Reported by:  Noemi Hammonds  Date: March 15, 2019