Bill No.: SB-919
Title: AN ACT REMOVING THE TERM "HOMEMAKER" IN REFERENCE TO HOME HEALTH AIDE AGENCIES AND SERVICES.
Vote Date: 3/8/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/4/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
The Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
The bill removes statutory references to the term “homemaker” in provisions concerning home health care agencies and services. This language change will update the terminology to align with the relevant Code of Federal Regulations.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (DPH):
The DPH supports this legislation. The term “homemaker home health aide” is no longer used in the relevant Code of Federal Regulations when pertaining to services provided by a home health aide. Term has also caused confusion for the general public when considering services of a home health agency versus a homemaker-companion agency. Since DPH and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) enforce the terms in this code, it is necessary to amend our statutes to align with the federal conditions of participation. DPH has been working with representatives from Healthcare At Home to amend regulatory requirements to ensure alignment with the federal conditions of participation. For these revisions to move forward, a change to the statute is required.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Tracy Wodatch, RN, VP of Clinical and Regulatory Services, The CT Association for Healthcare at Home: The Association represents approximately 60 state-licensed and Medicare-certified home health and hospice agencies and submits this testimony in support of this legislation. In collaboration with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the
Department of Social Services (DSS), the Association’s goal is to provide cost-effective and personal health care for persons in their own homes. The change requested through this legislation is necessary to move forward with updating the Public Health Code regulations referring to “Licensure of Home Health Care Agencies” (19-13-D66 through 19-13-D79). The term “homemaker-home health aide” is an outdated term which remains in statute although it is no longer used. Both the Association and the DPH agree to this necessary change.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted.

Reported by:  Kathleen Panazza  Date: March 12, 2019