

Insurance and Real Estate Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5257

AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES FOR COVERED DEPENDENT CHILDREN WHO ARE

Title: YOUNGER THAN NINETEEN YEARS OF AGE.

Vote Date: 3/10/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/10/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill was made to cover the cost of prescription eyeglasses for children under the age of 19. This would aid low income families the most who would otherwise not have been able to afford the eyeglasses for their children.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians supports the bill especially if amended to cover for broken pair of glasses as it will help many children who might have permanent vision and education setbacks without them.

Dr. Brian T Lynch supports the bill as it would help families get coverage for their children who need glasses but expresses concern over it being another mandate.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Connecticut Association Health Plans opposes the bill as burden of the cost would fall on the self-insured plans. The current ratio of self-insured plans to fully insured plans CT is nearing 60 % to 40 %.

Michelle Rakebrand, Assistant Counsel, The Connecticut Business & Industry Association opposes this bill as it is another mandate that would impose additional costs on small business that they would not be able to afford.

Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez

Date: 03/31/2020