

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-843

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF INSURANCE IN THIS STATE.

Vote Date: 3/22/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/9/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill will provide that certain health carriers shall offer Medicare supplement insurance policies and certificates for plan "D" to persons eligible for Medicare by reason of disability, and may deliver Medicare supplement insurance policies and certificates for plan "D" to qualified Medicare beneficiaries. This will help Medicare beneficiaries afford necessary medical expenses. The bill will also amend certain provisions of the general statutes to more closely conform to the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, P.L. 114-10. The bill will extend the sunset date for personal risk insurance rate filings, which will benefit consumers by increasing competition among insurers and therefore reducing costs. The bill will also eliminate the territorial cap on increases for personal risk insurance rate filings.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

American Property Casualty Insurance Association: The APCIA testified that flex-rating should be extended and made permanent. They state that flex-rating increases competition, contains premium growth, and benefits consumers.

Eric George, President, Insurance Association of Connecticut: Mr. George testified that SB 843 will allow insurers to continue flex-rating, a practice which benefits consumers by encouraging insurers to set low prices to compete with each other.

Hrant Jamgochian, Chief Executive Officer, Dialysis Patient Citizens: Mr. Jamgochian testified that end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients need supplemental insurance to help

pay for co-pays as well as to get listed for a kidney transplant. SB 843 will give more ESRD patients access to Medigap Plan D, allowing them to get kidney transplants that will significantly increase their life expectancy.

Melanie Lynn Lendnal, Director of State Policy and Advocacy, American Kidney Fund:

Ms. Lendnal testified that people with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) often need Medicare Supplement plans to afford cost-deductibles and co-pays, and SB 843 will ensure that ESRD patients are offered the Medigap plan they need.

Judith A. Stein, Executive Director, Center for Medicare Advocacy: Ms. Stein testified that a change in federal law has made it so those who become eligible for Medicare due to disabilities after January 1, 2020 no longer have access to Medigap Plan C. Connecticut Insurance regulations indicate that Medigap Plan C is to be reclassified as D. Ms. Stein states that the corresponding change to the Connecticut General Statutes in SB 843 is necessary to ensure that companies are required to offer Medigap Plan D. Ms. Stein also recommends a language change to clarify that Plan C is only for those who became eligible for Medicare before January 1, 2020.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Thomas Tesla, Shelton CT: Mr. Tesla testified “No to SB-843.”

Reported by: Mallory Ferrick

Date: March 30, 2021