

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-853

AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE-WIDE HEALTH INFORMATION

Title: EXCHANGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Vote Date: 2/23/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/16/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The purpose of this bill is to amend the State-Wide Health Information Exchange board of directors. Various board members will continue to be appointed by the Governor and by the leadership of the House and Senate. This new representation to the board of directors is the Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services is recognized by Connecticut as the State's single agency for Medicaid. The additional member will provide crucial knowledge to the board about the role Medicaid plays in the State's Health Information Exchange.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Diedre S. Gifford, Commissioner, Department of Social Services, supports this bill as it would allow the Commissioner or a designee chosen by the Commissioner, to be a voting member of the Board of Direction.

Victoria Veltri, Executive Director, Office of Health Strategy, supports this bill because one main goal of the state-wide Health Information Exchange (HIE) is to provide for broad local governance, which includes the Department of Social Services. She states that adding the DSS Commissioner to the Board enables DSS to fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities as the Single State Agency administering the Medicaid Program. She states that this added representation "ensures that all key stakeholders have the ability to participate in the development, oversight, and administration of the HIE in a timely and effective manner."

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

There are no additional sources of support for this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

There are no sources of opposition for this bill.

Reported by: Gianna Vollano

Date: March 8, 2021