



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 1008

LCO No. 3658



Referred to Committee on INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Introduced by:
(INS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH EQUITY, THE CORONAVIRUS
PANDEMIC AND PULSE OXIMETERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Health care provider" has the same meaning as provided in
4 section 38a-477aa of the general statutes;

5 (2) "Health carrier" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-
6 1080 of the general statutes;

7 (3) "Pharmacist" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-
8 479aaa of the general statutes;

9 (4) "Pharmacy" has the same meaning as provided in section 38a-
10 479aaa of the general statutes; and

11 (5) "Pharmacy benefits manager" has the same meaning as provided
12 in section 38a-479aaa of the general statutes.

13 (b) The Insurance Commissioner, in consultation with the
14 Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance
15 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to ensure that:

16 (1) Each health care provider, health carrier, pharmacist, pharmacy
17 and pharmacy benefits manager doing business in this state is informed
18 that a pulse oximeter is more likely to produce an inaccurate blood
19 oxygen level reading for an insured who is an individual of color as
20 opposed to an insured who is a white individual; and

21 (2) Each insured in this state:

22 (A) Who receives a covered pulse oximeter is informed that such
23 pulse oximeter is more likely to produce an inaccurate blood oxygen
24 level reading for such insured if such insured is an individual of color
25 as opposed to an insured who is a white individual; and

26 (B) Is informed that if such insured receives an inaccurate blood
27 oxygen level reading as measured by a pulse oximeter such insured may
28 be deprived of medically necessary health care services due to such
29 inaccurate reading.

30 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2022*) No insurer, health care center,
31 hospital service corporation, medical service corporation, fraternal
32 benefit society or other entity delivering, issuing for delivery, renewing,
33 amending or continuing an individual or group health insurance policy
34 in this state on or after January 1, 2022, providing coverage of the type
35 specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 of
36 the general statutes shall deny coverage for an otherwise covered
37 benefit if such denial is exclusively based on an insured's blood oxygen
38 level as measured by a pulse oximeter.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	New section

INS *Joint Favorable*