
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5343 (as amended by House "A" and "B")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITY NETWORK.

SUMMARY

This bill modifies the name of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Health and Human Services Network to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Health, Human Services and Opportunity Network and expands its charge. Specifically, it requires the network to make recommendations about promoting equitable access to opportunities for, and educational awareness about, LGBTQ people in the state. Under existing law, the network must already make recommendations on the delivery of health and human services to these people.

The bill also updates network membership, such as requiring the Human Services Committee chairpersons to each appoint several members, which they must do by September 1, 2022 (they must also fill these vacancies). Ex-officio vacancies are filled by a majority vote of the network's members. Under current law, the House speaker fills any vacancies, in consultation with the Senate president pro tempore.

The bill removes provisions under current law (1) providing that members serve at the will of the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore and (2) allowing them to set member term limits.

The bill allows the network to use (1) available funds from federal, state, or other sources, and (2) voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, state or federal agencies, and organizations as may be offered and needed. It also allows the network to enter into contracts to carry out its purposes, as long as no member participates in decisions, whether by affirmative vote or otherwise, to disburse funds or other benefits to themselves or an organization with which they are

affiliated.

*House Amendment “A” (1) caps the network’s membership and specifies that members, or their designees, are required to be part of the network to the extent they are available and willing to serve; (2) eliminates the requirement that the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity administer the network funds through a fiscal agent; and (3) prohibits members from participating in decisions to disburse funds or benefits to themselves or an affiliated organization.

*House Amendment “B” makes the same changes as Amendment “A”, plus two clarifying changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

The bill modifies the LGBTQ Health, Human Services and Opportunity Network’s membership, as shown in Table 1. Under current law, the required membership is a minimum. The bill instead caps the network’s membership at the updated list and specifies that these members, or their designees, are required to be part of the network to the extent they are available and willing to serve.

Table 1: Network Membership

<i>Current Law</i>	<i>Under the Bill</i>
<i>Legislative or Gubernatorial Appointments (or their designees)</i>	<i>Appointments by Human Services Committee Senate Chairperson*</i>
House speaker-appointed licensed physician who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer	LGBTQ licensed physician affiliated with and nominated by a health care organization that advocates for or promotes services to LGBTQ health care consumers
Senate president pro tempore-appointed LGBT veteran care coordinator assigned to a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care facility in the state	LGBTQ licensed mental health provider (physician or physician assistant) affiliated with and nominated by a health care organization that advocates for or promotes services to LGBTQ health care consumers
Governor-appointed member of the LGBT Aging Advocacy coalition	Representative of the Latino, Latina, Latinx, or Puerto Rican LGBTQ community

Current Law	Under the Bill
	Representative of the African American/ Black LGBTQ community
	Representative of the LGBTQ+ women community
	A lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer person with disabilities
	Representative of the transgender, nonbinary, or intersex community
	Appointments by Human Services Committee House Chairperson*
	Representative of the LGBTQ+ youth services sector
	Up to three rotating representatives from each of the (1) Pride Network, (2) College LGBTQ+ services and support community, and (3) HIV/AIDS service sector
	LGBT veteran care coordinator assigned to a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care facility in the state
	Member of the LGBT Aging Advocacy coalition
Ex-Officio Members (or their designees)	Ex-Officio Members (or their designees)*
Executive Directors of the following organizations:	Executive Directors of the following organizations:
AIDS Connecticut	Advancing CT Together
Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity	Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity
Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) - CT	---
Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition	Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition
Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective	Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective
New Haven Pride Center	New Haven Pride Center
Queer Unity Empowerment Support Team	Q+
Rainbow Center at the University of Connecticut	Kamora's Cultural Corner
Safe Harbor Project	---
Triangle Community Center in Norwalk	Triangle Community Center
True Colors, Inc.	---

<i>Current Law</i>	<i>Under the Bill</i>
<i>Presidents of the following organizations:</i>	<i>Presidents of the following organizations:</i>
Connecticut Latinas/os Achieving Rights and Opportunities (CLARO)	Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) - CT
OutCT in New London	OutCT
Connecticut Community Care	Connecticut Community Care
	* provided these members are willing and able to serve

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/24/2022)