

---

## **OFA Bill Analysis**

### **HB 5431**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING RECEIVED BY THE STATE UNDER THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill transfers the administration of the Community Health Worker Grant Program and associated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds totaling \$6 million from the Department of Public Health (DPH) to the Department of Social Services (DSS). The bill also (1) specifies grants are provided per community health worker employed by a community action agency (CAA), (2) increases the grant amount from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per worker, (3) increases the total grants that can be distributed to CAAs from \$6 million to \$8 million, and (4) extends the date by which grants must be distributed.

This bill also requires the Governor to submit proposed allocations of federal funding received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act to the General Assembly and requires the General Assembly to approve the plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Community Action Agencies***

"Community action agency" means a public or private nonprofit agency which has previously been designated by and authorized to accept funds from the federal Community Services Administration for community action agencies under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, or a successor agency established pursuant to section 17b-892 of 10 the general statutes.

##### ***Community Health Workers***

"Community health worker" means a public health outreach professional with an in-depth understanding of the experience, language, culture and socioeconomic needs of the community and who provides a range of services, including, but not limited to, outreach, engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social support, advocacy, care coordination, research related to social determinants of health and basic screenings and assessments of any risks associated with social determinants of health.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 50 Nay 0 (04/07/2022)