
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6830

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a 15-member Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council within the Health Care Cabinet of the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to (1) make recommendations to the cabinet on its policy initiatives and (2) review and advise the cabinet on health care cost initiatives, including cost trends in hospitals, pharmaceutical costs and pricing, pharmacy benefit managers' costs to the health care system, and costs associated with health care provider billing.

Beginning by January 1, 2025, the advisory council must annually report (presumably, on its review and recommendations) to OHS and the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The advisory council has the following members:

1. two appointed by the House speaker, one who represents the American Association of Retired Persons, and one who represents the health insurance industry;
2. two appointed by the Senate president pro tempore, one who represents a labor union in Connecticut and one who is a member of a state-wide health care advocacy coalition;
3. two appointed by the House majority leader, one who represents a large business and employer community in the state, and the other who is a Connecticut-licensed pharmacist employed at a

- chain pharmacy (i.e., a community pharmacy that is publicly traded or has at least six in-state locations);
4. two appointed by the Senate majority leader, one who represents a pharmaceutical manufacturer and the other who represents the provider community;
 5. two appointed by the House minority leader, one who is a member of the biotechnology industry, and one who is a member of the Connecticut small business community;
 6. two appointed by the Senate minority leader, one who represents the medical device industry and one who is a member of a chamber of commerce in Connecticut;
 7. two appointed by the governor, with legislative approval, one who represents any state-wide health care advocacy coalition, and one who represents the employer community in Connecticut; and
 8. the OHS executive director or her designee.

The bill prohibits the appointed members from being members of the General Assembly. Initial appointments must be made by January 1, 2024, and members serve up to a maximum of two, four-year terms. Vacancies are filled by the appointing authority (and vacancies for reasons other than an expired term are filled for the remainder of the unexpired term).

The governor selects the chairperson from the council's members, who must schedule the council's first meeting to be held by March 1, 2024. The council must meet at least quarterly, and more often as the chair deems necessary or upon a request of a majority of its members. A majority of the council constitutes a quorum.

Councilmembers serve without compensation, but must be reimbursed, within available funds, for expenses necessarily incurred while doing their duties.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/16/2023)