



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 738

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 5001

House of Representatives, May 8, 2023

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Developmental Services shall establish, within available appropriations,
3 a Transition Academy for Independent Living program to provide
4 transitional tools and life skills development for intellectually or
5 developmentally disabled participants who are at least twenty-two
6 years of age for the purpose of preparing participants to transition from
7 (1) the kindergarten through grade twelve education system, or (2)
8 living with parents or guardians to living independently or quasi-
9 independently through a residential program administered by the
10 Department of Developmental Services.

11 (b) The Transition Academy for Independent Living program shall
12 (1) be between three to six months in duration, depending on the
13 individual needs of the participant and the availability of Department

14 of Developmental Services resources, (2) include a residential
15 component for each participant, (3) to the extent possible and
16 appropriate, utilize property currently owned by the Department of
17 Developmental Services, (4) include family-centered practices for
18 participants with parents or guardians, and (5) include a nonresidential
19 component for parents and guardians to acclimate participants to
20 residential programs administered by the department.

21 (c) The Commissioner of Developmental Services may establish
22 multiple campuses for the administration of the academy program,
23 provided such campuses shall be located across the state, taking the
24 population density and distribution of likely applicants into account.
25 The commissioner may issue a request for proposals for a private
26 provider to operate the program with department oversight, with
27 oversight including, but not limited to, unannounced site inspections,
28 an evaluation of cost effectiveness and audits of participant outcomes.

29 (d) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the
30 Commissioner of Developmental Services shall file a report on the
31 Transition Academy for Independent Living program, in accordance
32 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint
33 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
34 matters relating to human services and public health. The report shall
35 contain data on the utilization and success of the program, including,
36 but not limited to, (1) program demand, (2) the general demographics
37 and outcomes of program participants, (3) the cost effectiveness of the
38 program, and (4) any recommendations to modify or expand the
39 program.

40 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy
41 and Management, in consultation with the Labor Commissioner,
42 Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, Commissioner of
43 Economic and Community Development, the Office of Workforce
44 Strategy, the Council on Developmental Disabilities and the
45 Connecticut Business Industry Association, shall (1) analyze existing
46 employment assistance programs for persons with disabilities,

47 including, but not limited to, persons with intellectual or developmental
48 disabilities, (2) establish financial incentives for businesses to employ a
49 greater number of such persons, and (3) create a workforce plan that
50 incentivizes businesses to provide training programs, offer modified
51 interviews and reserve market-rate, full-time jobs.

52 (b) The secretary shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions
53 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of the evaluation
54 and recommendations not later than July 1, 2024, with the joint standing
55 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
56 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, commerce,
57 finance, revenue and bonding, human services, labor and public health.

58 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy
59 and Management, in consultation with the Commissioners of
60 Transportation, Aging and Disability Services and Developmental
61 Services and the Council on Developmental Disabilities, shall (1) review
62 other states' best transportation practices for persons with disabilities,
63 (2) assess expansion opportunities for and accessibility of state-wide
64 and local transportation for such persons, and (3) develop
65 recommendations for ways the state can provide more cost-effective,
66 efficient and reliable transportation for persons with disabilities,
67 including, but not limited to, persons with intellectual or developmental
68 disabilities.

69 (b) The secretary shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions
70 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of the review and
71 recommendations not later than July 1, 2024, with the joint standing
72 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
73 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,
74 transportation, human services and public health.

75 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Social Services, in
76 consultation with the Commissioner of Developmental Services and
77 within available appropriations, shall reduce the waiting lists for
78 services in Medicaid waiver programs established under Section 1915(c)
79 of the Social Security Act and administered by the Department of

80 Developmental Services. Not later than January 1, 2024, the
81 Commissioner of Social Services shall file a report, in accordance with
82 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on (1) the number
83 of persons who have been removed from the waiting lists and are
84 receiving home and community-based services, and (2) the number of
85 persons who remain on the waiting lists with the joint standing
86 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
87 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human
88 services and public health.

89 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy
90 and Management, in consultation with the Commissioners of
91 Education, Social Services, Developmental Services, Aging and
92 Disability Services and Public Health and the Council on
93 Developmental Disabilities, shall develop and recommend new state
94 statutory definitions for intellectual disabilities and developmental
95 disabilities and identify related programs for persons with such
96 disabilities that may need to be changed or redesignated in accordance
97 with any new statutory definitions. The secretary shall also make
98 recommendations concerning qualifying criteria for services for such
99 persons, including the removal of consideration of a qualifying
100 intelligence quotient.

101 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the
102 Commissioners of Education, Social Services, Developmental Services,
103 Aging and Disability Services and Public Health shall solicit and take
104 into account input from persons with intellectual or developmental
105 disabilities, their families and caregivers in developing the
106 recommendations.

107 (c) Not later than January 1, 2024, the secretary shall file a report, in
108 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
109 with recommendations on such statutory definitions, programs that
110 may need to be redesignated in accordance with any new statutory
111 definitions and qualifying criteria for services with the joint standing
112 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

113 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education,
114 human services and public health. The report shall include a summary
115 of the input obtained pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and how
116 the input was incorporated into the recommendations.

117 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Social Services, in
118 consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
119 and within available appropriations, shall expand the Medicaid waiver
120 program for persons with autism spectrum disorder to allow not less
121 than six hundred persons on a waiting list to receive services under the
122 program. Not later than January 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Social
123 Services shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section
124 11-4a of the general statutes, on the waiver program expansion with
125 recommendations to further reduce the waiting list with the joint
126 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
127 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and
128 human services.

129 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
130 Services shall increase the asset limits used to determine eligibility for
131 HUSKY C, as defined in section 17b-290 of the general statutes, to three
132 thousand six hundred dollars for an individual and five thousand four
133 hundred dollars for a married couple.

134 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall allow any person,
135 whose income exceeds the income limits for HUSKY C but who
136 otherwise qualifies, to qualify for the program by spending down such
137 person's excess income over the HUSKY C income limits on incurred
138 medical bills in accordance with 42 CFR 435.831.

139 Sec. 8. Section 17b-261 of the general statutes is repealed and the
140 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

141 (a) Medical assistance shall be provided for any otherwise eligible
142 person (1) whose income, including any available support from legally
143 liable relatives and the income of the person's spouse or dependent
144 child, is not more than [one hundred forty-three per cent, pending

145 approval of a federal waiver applied for pursuant to subsection (e) of
146 this section, of the benefit amount paid to a person with no income
147 under the temporary family assistance program] one thousand four
148 hundred sixty-five dollars per month, and (2) if such person is an
149 institutionalized individual as defined in Section 1917 of the Social
150 Security Act, 42 USC 1396p(h)(3), and such person has not made an
151 assignment or transfer or other disposition of property for less than fair
152 market value for the purpose of establishing eligibility for benefits or
153 assistance under this section. Any such disposition shall be treated in
154 accordance with Section 1917(c) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC
155 1396p(c). Any disposition of property made on behalf of an applicant or
156 recipient or the spouse of an applicant or recipient by a guardian,
157 conservator, person authorized to make such disposition pursuant to a
158 power of attorney or other person so authorized by law shall be
159 attributed to such applicant, recipient or spouse. A disposition of
160 property ordered by a court shall be evaluated in accordance with the
161 standards applied to any other such disposition for the purpose of
162 determining eligibility. [The commissioner shall establish the standards
163 for eligibility for medical assistance at one hundred forty-three per cent
164 of the benefit amount paid to a household of equal size with no income
165 under the temporary family assistance program.] In determining
166 eligibility, the commissioner shall not consider as income Aid and
167 Attendance pension benefits granted to a veteran, as defined in section
168 27-103, or the surviving spouse of such veteran. Except as provided in
169 section 17b-277 and section 17b-292, the medical assistance program
170 shall provide coverage to persons under the age of nineteen with
171 household income up to one hundred ninety-six per cent of the federal
172 poverty level without an asset limit and to persons under the age of
173 nineteen, who qualify for coverage under Section 1931 of the Social
174 Security Act, with household income not exceeding one hundred
175 ninety-six per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset limit,
176 and their parents and needy caretaker relatives, who qualify for
177 coverage under Section 1931 of the Social Security Act, with household
178 income not exceeding one hundred fifty-five per cent of the federal
179 poverty level without an asset limit. Such levels shall be based on the

180 regional differences in such benefit amount, if applicable, unless such
181 levels based on regional differences are not in conformance with federal
182 law. Any income in excess of the applicable amounts shall be applied as
183 may be required by said federal law, and assistance shall be granted for
184 the balance of the cost of authorized medical assistance. The
185 Commissioner of Social Services shall provide applicants for assistance
186 under this section, at the time of application, with a written statement
187 advising them of (A) the effect of an assignment or transfer or other
188 disposition of property on eligibility for benefits or assistance, (B) the
189 effect that having income that exceeds the limits prescribed in this
190 subsection will have with respect to program eligibility, and (C) the
191 availability of, and eligibility for, services provided by the Connecticut
192 Home Visiting System, established pursuant to section 17b-751b. For
193 coverage dates on or after January 1, 2014, the department shall use the
194 modified adjusted gross income financial eligibility rules set forth in
195 Section 1902(e)(14) of the Social Security Act and the implementing
196 regulations to determine eligibility for HUSKY A, HUSKY B and
197 HUSKY D applicants, as defined in section 17b-290. Persons who are
198 determined ineligible for assistance pursuant to this section shall be
199 provided a written statement notifying such persons of their ineligibility
200 and advising such persons of their potential eligibility for one of the
201 other insurance affordability programs as defined in 42 CFR 435.4.

202 (b) For the purposes of the Medicaid program, the Commissioner of
203 Social Services shall consider parental income and resources as available
204 to a child under eighteen years of age who is living with his or her
205 parents and is blind or disabled for purposes of the Medicaid program,
206 or to any other child under twenty-one years of age who is living with
207 his or her parents.

208 (c) For the purposes of determining eligibility for the Medicaid
209 program, an available asset is one that is actually available to the
210 applicant or one that the applicant has the legal right, authority or
211 power to obtain or to have applied for the applicant's general or medical
212 support. If the terms of a trust provide for the support of an applicant,
213 the refusal of a trustee to make a distribution from the trust does not

214 render the trust an unavailable asset. Notwithstanding the provisions of
215 this subsection, the availability of funds in a trust or similar instrument
216 funded in whole or in part by the applicant or the applicant's spouse
217 shall be determined pursuant to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act
218 of 1993, 42 USC 1396p. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply
219 to a special needs trust, as defined in 42 USC 1396p(d)(4)(A), as
220 amended from time to time. For purposes of determining whether a
221 beneficiary under a special needs trust, who has not received a disability
222 determination from the Social Security Administration, is disabled, as
223 defined in 42 USC 1382c(a)(3), the Commissioner of Social Services, or
224 the commissioner's designee, shall independently make such
225 determination. The commissioner shall not require such beneficiary to
226 apply for Social Security disability benefits or obtain a disability
227 determination from the Social Security Administration for purposes of
228 determining whether the beneficiary is disabled.

229 (d) The transfer of an asset in exchange for other valuable
230 consideration shall be allowable to the extent the value of the other
231 valuable consideration is equal to or greater than the value of the asset
232 transferred.

233 (e) The Commissioner of Social Services [shall seek a waiver from
234 federal law to permit federal financial participation for Medicaid
235 expenditures for families with incomes of one hundred forty-three per
236 cent of the temporary family assistance program payment standard]
237 may seek federal approval for a Medicaid waiver or a Medicaid state
238 plan amendment to implement the provisions of this section.

239 (f) To the extent [permitted by] permissible under federal law,
240 Medicaid eligibility shall be extended for one year to a family that
241 becomes ineligible for medical assistance under Section 1931 of the
242 Social Security Act due to income from employment by one of its
243 members who is a caretaker relative or due to receipt of child support
244 income. A family receiving extended benefits on July 1, 2005, shall
245 receive the balance of such extended benefits, provided no such family
246 shall receive more than twelve additional months of such benefits.

247 (g) An institutionalized spouse applying for Medicaid and having a
248 spouse living in the community shall be required, to the maximum
249 extent permitted by law, to divert income to such community spouse in
250 order to raise the community spouse's income to the level of the
251 minimum monthly needs allowance, as described in Section 1924 of the
252 Social Security Act. Such diversion of income shall occur before the
253 community spouse is allowed to retain assets in excess of the
254 community spouse protected amount described in Section 1924 of the
255 Social Security Act. The Commissioner of Social Services, pursuant to
256 section 17b-10, may implement the provisions of this subsection while
257 in the process of adopting regulations, provided the commissioner
258 prints notice of intent to adopt the regulations [in the Connecticut Law
259 Journal within] on the eRegulations System not later than twenty days
260 [of] after adopting such policy. Such policy shall be valid until the time
261 final regulations are effective.

262 (h) To the extent permissible under federal law, an institutionalized
263 individual, as defined in Section 1917 of the Social Security Act, 42 USC
264 1396p(h)(3), shall not be determined ineligible for Medicaid solely on
265 the basis of the cash value of a life insurance policy worth less than ten
266 thousand dollars provided the individual is pursuing the surrender of
267 the policy.

268 (i) Medical assistance shall be provided, in accordance with the
269 provisions of subsection (e) of section 17a-6, to any child under the
270 supervision of the Commissioner of Children and Families who is not
271 receiving Medicaid benefits, has not yet qualified for Medicaid benefits
272 or is otherwise ineligible for such benefits. Medical assistance shall also
273 be provided to any child in the behavioral services program operated
274 by the Department of Developmental Services who is not receiving
275 Medicaid benefits, has not yet qualified for Medicaid benefits or is
276 otherwise ineligible for benefits. To the extent practicable, the
277 Commissioner of Children and Families and the Commissioner of
278 Developmental Services shall apply for, or assist such child in qualifying
279 for, the Medicaid program.

280 (j) The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide Early and
281 Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment program services, as
282 required and defined as of December 31, 2005, by 42 USC 1396a(a)(43),
283 42 USC 1396d(r) and 42 USC 1396d(a)(4)(B) and applicable federal
284 regulations, to all persons who are under the age of twenty-one and
285 otherwise eligible for medical assistance under this section.

286 (k) A veteran, as defined in section 27-103, and any member of his or
287 her family, who applies for or receives assistance under the Medicaid
288 program, shall apply for all benefits for which he or she may be eligible
289 through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the United
290 States Department of Defense.

291 (l) On and after January 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Social Services
292 shall, within available appropriations, provide state-funded medical
293 assistance to any child twelve years of age and younger, regardless of
294 immigration status, (1) whose household income does not exceed two
295 hundred one per cent of the federal poverty level without an asset limit,
296 and (2) who does not otherwise qualify for (A) Medicaid, (B) the
297 Children's Health Insurance Program, or (C) an offer of affordable,
298 employer-sponsored insurance, as defined in the Affordable Care Act,
299 as an employee or a dependent of an employee. A child eligible for such
300 assistance under this subsection shall continue to receive such assistance
301 until such child is nineteen years of age, provided the child continues to
302 meet the eligibility requirements prescribed in subdivisions (1) and (2)
303 of this subsection.

304 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 29-1f of the general statutes is repealed
305 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

306 (a) The clearinghouse established under section 29-1e shall collect,
307 process, maintain and disseminate information to assist in the location
308 of any missing person who (1) is eighteen years of age or older and has
309 a mental impairment, [or] (2) is sixty-five years of age or older, or (3) has
310 an intellectual or developmental disability, provided a missing person
311 report prepared by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
312 Protection has been filed by such missing person's relative, guardian,

313 conservator or agent appointed by the missing person in accordance
314 with sections 1-350 to 1-353b, inclusive, any health care representative
315 appointed by the missing person in accordance with section 19a-576 or
316 a nursing home administrator, as defined in section 19a-511, or,
317 pursuant to section 17a-465b, by an employee of the Department of
318 Mental Health and Addiction Services who is certified under the
319 provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive. Such relative,
320 guardian, conservator, agent, health care representative, nursing home
321 administrator or employee shall attest under penalty of perjury that the
322 missing person (A) is eighteen years of age or older and has a mental
323 impairment, [or] (B) is sixty-five years of age or older, or (C) has an
324 intellectual or developmental disability. No other proof shall be
325 required in order to verify that the missing person meets the criteria to
326 be eligible for assistance under this subsection. Such relative, guardian,
327 conservator, agent, health care representative, nursing home
328 administrator or employee who files a missing person report shall
329 immediately notify the clearinghouse or law enforcement agency if the
330 missing person's location has been determined.

331 Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes described in
332 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the
333 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state
334 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the
335 aggregate one million dollars.

336 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
337 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department
338 of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the purpose of grants
339 to be distributed to municipalities and local police departments to apply
340 for and use to establish and implement a local voluntary registration
341 system for residents with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

342 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise
343 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the
344 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
345 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this

346 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
347 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in
348 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
349 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
350 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
351 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
352 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
353 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
354 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
355 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
356 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
357 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
358 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
359 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
360 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
361 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
362 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
363 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
364 such principal and interest as the same become due.

365 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
366 Developmental Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of
367 Education, shall maintain, in a readily accessible format, data on (1) the
368 estimated number of persons in the state with intellectual or
369 developmental disabilities, (2) the number of such persons receiving
370 services from the Department of Developmental Services or the
371 Department of Education by programs administered by such
372 departments, and (3) the number of such persons on waiting lists for
373 Medicaid waiver programs administered by the Department of
374 Developmental Services, by waiver program.

375 (b) Not later than December fifteenth annually, the Commissioner of
376 Developmental Services shall file a report, in accordance with the
377 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the data collected
378 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section with the joint standing
379 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

380 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human
381 services and public health.

382 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Office of Workforce
383 Strategy, in collaboration with the Commissioners of Education, Aging
384 and Disability Services, Developmental Services and Social Services,
385 shall establish a Behavioral Health and Human Services Career Pipeline
386 program to ensure a sufficient number of highly trained providers are
387 available to serve the needs of persons in the state with intellectual,
388 developmental or physical disabilities, mental illness or behavioral
389 health conditions.

390 (b) The Office of Workforce Strategy shall consult with the
391 Commissioners of Social Services, Developmental Services and Mental
392 Health and Addiction Services to determine (1) the greatest needs for
393 behavioral health and human services providers in programs they
394 administer, and (2) barriers to hiring and retaining qualified providers.
395 The Office of Workforce Strategy shall assist local and regional boards
396 of education in enhancing existing partnerships or establishing new
397 partnerships with providers of behavioral health and human services
398 and higher education institutions to provide a pathway to a diploma,
399 credential, certificate or license and a job providing behavioral health or
400 human services.

401 (c) The Office of Workforce Strategy, in collaboration with the
402 Commissioners of Education and Aging and Disability Services, shall
403 develop a strategic workforce plan that includes, but is not limited to,
404 (1) a strategy to increase the number of state residents pursuing careers
405 in behavioral health or human services, (2) salary and working
406 conditions conducive to retaining an adequate number of behavioral
407 health and human services providers to serve state residents, and (3)
408 funding needed to support the Behavioral Health and Human Services
409 Career Pipeline program. The Office of Workforce Strategy shall submit
410 a report on the plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
411 of the general statutes, not later than November 1, 2023, with the joint
412 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of

413 matters relating to education, human services, public health and labor.

414 Sec. 13. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Developmental
415 Services shall review the rights of persons placed or treated under the
416 supervision of the commissioner as provided in section 17a-238 of the
417 general statutes to determine whether (1) additions or changes are
418 needed to ensure such persons are afforded all rights due to such
419 persons; and (2) such persons have a remedy to seek redress in court for
420 a violation of such rights. Not later than December 1, 2023, the
421 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions
422 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees
423 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
424 human services and public health with recommendations for (A) any
425 changes necessary in section 17a-238 of the general statutes, and (B) any
426 action needed to ensure the rights of all persons with intellectual or
427 developmental disabilities, regardless of whether such persons are
428 placed or treated under the supervision of the commissioner, are
429 protected.

430 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Department of
431 Administrative Services shall develop an online portal for the secure
432 sharing of information between agencies serving persons with
433 intellectual, developmental or physical disabilities and persons with
434 autism spectrum disorder.

435 Sec. 15. Section 38a-1041 of the general statutes is amended by adding
436 subsection (i) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

437 (NEW) (i) Not later than October 1, 2023, the Healthcare Advocate
438 shall establish a new position within the Office of the Healthcare
439 Advocate to serve as a point of contact for caregivers of adults with
440 intellectual, developmental or physical disabilities or autism spectrum
441 disorder who need assistance in assessing, applying for and obtaining
442 state services for such adults. The Healthcare Advocate, within available
443 appropriations, shall hire a person who meets qualifications prescribed
444 by the Healthcare Advocate for the position.

445 Sec. 16. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Connecticut Sentencing
446 Commission, established pursuant to section 54-300 of the general
447 statutes, shall study the experience of persons with intellectual or
448 developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder who are in the
449 criminal justice system. Such study shall include, but need not be limited
450 to, (1) rates of incarceration of such persons compared to the overall
451 population of such persons in the state, and (2) best practices of other
452 states concerning such persons.

453 (b) The commission shall report the results of the study, in accordance
454 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, not later than
455 July 1, 2024, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
456 having cognizance of matters relating to human services, public health
457 and the judiciary. The report shall include the commission's
458 recommendations for sentencing considerations for such persons.

459 Sec. 17. Section 19a-754a of the general statutes is amended by adding
460 subsection (e) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

461 (NEW) (e) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy shall
462 establish a new position within the office to serve as state-wide
463 coordinator of programs and services provided by state agencies for
464 persons with intellectual, developmental or physical disabilities or
465 autism spectrum disorder. The coordinator shall make
466 recommendations to the executive director concerning strategies to
467 improve services offered to such persons and gaps in services. The
468 executive director, within available appropriations, may hire a person
469 who meets qualifications prescribed by the executive director for the
470 position.

471 Sec. 18. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Developmental
472 Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Education and
473 Public Health and the Council on Developmental Disabilities, shall
474 evaluate the level-of-need assessment tool used by state agencies that
475 serve persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities to (1)
476 analyze best practices and assessment tools used by other states, (2)
477 assess alternative tools, models or ways to capture an individual's

478 service needs, (3) evaluate how funding levels for services and
479 programs are determined for each individual, and (4) determine which
480 states are providing similar services and programs via a service delivery
481 model in which such persons or their representatives direct services
482 based on their needs. The Commissioner of Developmental Services
483 shall report the results of the study, in accordance with the provisions
484 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, not later than July 1, 2024, to the
485 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance
486 of matters relating to human services and public health.

487 Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes described in
488 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the
489 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state
490 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the
491 aggregate one million dollars.

492 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
493 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department
494 of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the purpose of
495 establishing a pool of funds to allow private providers to apply for
496 financial assistance to comply with fire regulation requirements that any
497 group home be equipped with a five-thousand gallon water tank. The
498 department, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management,
499 the Connecticut Council of Small Towns and the Connecticut Builders
500 Trade Association, shall assess level of need for funds and review fire
501 regulations for group homes in other states, including, but not limited
502 to, New England states, California and Colorado, to determine whether
503 any changes are necessary in state fire regulations for such group
504 homes.

505 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise
506 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the
507 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
508 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
509 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
510 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in

511 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
 512 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
 513 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
 514 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
 515 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
 516 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
 517 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
 518 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
 519 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
 520 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
 521 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
 522 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
 523 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
 524 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,
 525 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
 526 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
 527 such principal and interest as the same become due.

528 Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 10-29a of the general statutes is
 529 amended by adding subdivision (108) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

530 (NEW) (108) The Governor shall proclaim May twenty-third of each
 531 year to be Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness and
 532 Advocacy Day to promote awareness of and advocacy for persons with
 533 intellectual and developmental disabilities. Suitable exercises shall be
 534 held in the State Capitol and in public schools on the day so designated
 535 or, if that day is not a school day, on the school day preceding, or on any
 536 such other day as the local or regional board of education prescribes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Department of Developmental Services	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	300,000	None
Office of Health Strategy	GF - Cost	At least 100,000	At least 102,000
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Healthcare Advocate, Off.	IF - Cost	125,668	171,371
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	130,876	1,716,552
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Various	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund; IF=Insurance Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

The bill results in costs to various state agencies associated with providing the services and benefits established by the bill. The fiscal impacts are detailed below.

Section 1 requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to establish a Transition Academy for Independent Living program to

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

provide transitional tools and life skills development for intellectually or developmentally disabled participants who are at least twenty-two years of age to assist in the transition to living independently through a DDS residential program. It is estimated that to establish the program in three locations across the state it will cost DDS approximately \$1 million in FY 24 and \$4.2 million annually (\$1.4 million per location) for staff and expenses when fully operational in FY 25. There will also be corresponding fringe benefit costs of approximately \$39,800 in FY 24 and \$1,632,000 in FY 25.

Additionally, the establishment of the program would require the use of up to \$3.5 million of previously authorized General Obligation (GO) bonds to support the total renovation costs associated with the three future program locations ranging from \$750,000 to \$1.5 million per location. Future General Fund debt service costs may be incurred sooner under the bill to the degree that it causes authorized GO bond funds to be expended or to be expended more rapidly than they otherwise would have been.

As of April 10, 2023, there is an unallocated bond balance of approximately \$7.8 million available under the relevant authorizations. This bill does not change GO bond authorizations relevant to the program described in section 1. The impact of the bond authorizations included in the bill for other purposes is discussed below.

Section 2 requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to consult with other agencies to perform an assessment of employment assistance programs for persons with disabilities, create a workforce plan, and write a report by July 1, 2024. This results in a one-time cost of \$100,000 to OPM in FY 24. Additionally, Section 2 requires OPM to establish financial incentives for businesses to provide increased employment opportunities, which may result in a cost or revenue loss to the state, depending on the structure of the incentives, in FY 25 or beyond.

Section 3 requires OPM to consult with other agencies to review the state's transportation for people with disabilities and expansion

opportunities, review other states' relevant transportation practices, and issue a report on this work (including recommendations) by July 1, 2024. This results in a one-time cost of \$100,000 to OPM in FY 24.

Section 4 requires DSS and DDS to reduce the waiting list for DDS residential services. The DDS waiting list for individuals with no residential services was 685 individuals as of January 1, 2023. The average annual per person cost of residential services for this group ranges from \$47,000 for in home supports to \$112,000 for support in a group home. The cost per individual varies by the assessed level of need (LON). Providing additional individuals with residential services may also increase costs for rental assistance in DDS and room and board costs related to group homes in DSS.

The actual cost to reduce the waiting list is dependent upon the number of individuals funded for services and the time period in which services are provided. The annualized cost to fully fund all 685 individuals on the wait list is approximately \$50 million, which would likely be incurred gradually as individuals are able to access services over the next several years. There may also be additional capital costs to purchase or renovate group homes that cannot be quantified at this time. DDS community residential services are covered under the Home and Community Based Services Waiver and the state receives 50% federal Medicaid reimbursement which is deposited to the General Fund.

sHB 6659, the FY 24 and FY 25 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriates \$4.3 million in FY 24 and \$16.8 million in FY 25 in DDS and DSS to support over 260 individuals on the DDS waiting list with priority given to those with caregivers aged 65 and over.

Section 5 requires OPM to consult with other agencies to do the following for people with disabilities: (1) develop new statutory definitions for IDD, (2) identify relevant programs that may need to be changed due to the new definitions, (3) recommend qualifying criteria for serving this population, and (4) submit a report by January 1, 2024.

This results in a one-time cost of \$100,000 to OPM in FY 24.

Section 6 requires DSS and OPM to expand Medicaid waiver programs for persons with autism spectrum disorder to allow at least 600 persons on the waiting list to receive services, resulting in annualized state Medicaid costs of at least \$7.2 million. This assumes funding for additional case managers as well as program services.

sHB 6659, the FY 24 and FY 25 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriates \$117,500 in FY 24 and \$1.6 million in FY 25 to support the autism waiver.

Sections 7 & 8 result in significant costs to DSS due to increasing income and asset limits for HUSKY C. HUSKY C provides Medicaid coverage for individuals who are elderly or disabled. The increase in income and asset limits are anticipated to result in costs of at least \$30 million in FY 24 and \$70 million in FY 25.

Section 9 adds persons with IDD to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's missing persons information clearing house which results in a form update that has no fiscal impact.

Sections 10 & 19 authorize a total of \$2 million in General Obligation bonds for the purposes listed in those sections. To the extent bonds are fully allocated and expended, total debt service is expected to be approximately \$3.1 million over the 20-year duration of the bonds.

Section 11 requires DDS and SDE to maintain data on the number of persons with IDD and, the number of such persons receiving services from DDS or SDE, which does not result in a fiscal impact as the agencies have the expertise to do so.

Section 12 requires the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) to establish a Behavioral Health and Human Services Career Pipeline program. Additionally, the bill requires OWS to develop a strategic plan regarding (1) the workforce needs in the behavior health and human services sector and (2) the funding amount needed for the Behavioral Health and Human Services Career Pipeline program.

It is anticipated that OWS, in consultation with other relevant state agencies, will be able to develop the plan within existing resources and report back the necessary level of funding required for the pipeline program.

Section 13 requires DDS to review the rights for persons with IDD and ensure they have remedy to seek redress for violations of these rights and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as DDS has expertise to do this.

Section 14, which requires the Department of Administrative Services to create an online portal, is estimated to cost \$361,000 in FY 24 and \$215,000 in FY 25. The costs include one IT position and the associated fringe benefits as well as Other Expenses related to the implementation and ongoing expense of maintaining the portal including contracted services and licenses.

Section 15 requires the Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA), by October 1, 2023, to establish a new position to serve as a point of contact for caregivers of adults with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities or autism spectrum disorder who need assistance in assessing, applying for, and obtaining state services for such adults.

This results in a total estimated cost to OHA of \$125,668 in FY 24 and \$171,371 in FY 25, assuming the Insurance Fund supports the position and reflecting nine months of costs in FY 24 due to the October start date.²

The estimate reflects costs to OHA for (1) a starting salary for the new position of \$75,000 annually, (2) starting fringe benefit costs of \$77,558 annually, and (3) Other Expenses and Indirect Overhead costs of \$15,000

²OHA is funded through the Insurance Fund. Agencies supported by funds other than the General and Special Transportation Funds are budgeted at a higher fringe benefits rate and are charged Indirect Overhead costs for centralized state services provided by General Fund agencies.

annually.³

Section 16 requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission to study the experience of people with IDD or ASD who are in the criminal justice system and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

Section 17 results in a cost to the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) of at least \$100,000 in FY 24 and \$102,500 in FY 25 with corresponding fringe benefit costs of \$42,820 and \$43,890, respectively, to hire a state-wide coordinator of state agency programs and services for persons with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. For reference, should OHS hire at the Planning Specialist level (AR 30), the starting salary for a new state employee is \$99,524 annually.

Section 18 requires DDS, in consultation with SDE and DPH and the Council on Developmental Disabilities, to evaluate the level-of-need assessment tool used by state agencies that serve people with IDD. This requirement does not result in an additional cost to the state as it is being undertaken currently by DDS. The agency has funding available through the ARPA Home and Community-Based Services Reinvestment for a Level of Care consultant review which includes \$450,000 in FY 23 and \$150,000 in FY 24.

Section 20 designates May 23 as “Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day” to promote awareness and advocacy for people with IDD and require exercises observing the day as designated by the Governor at both the State Capitol and in local and regional school districts. Various state agencies and school districts may incur minimal costs for engaging in the exercises designated by the Governor. The level of costs for affected agencies and municipalities will

³The fringe benefit costs for employees funded out of other appropriated funds are budgeted within the fringe benefit account of those funds, as opposed to the fringe benefit accounts within the Office of the State Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes for other appropriated fund employees is 103.41% of payroll in FY 24.

be dependent upon the location, nature, and size of exercises.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and changes in state employee wages and benefit costs.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5001*****AN ACT CONCERNING RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.***

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Requires the DDS commissioner to evaluate the level-of-need assessment tool used by state agencies that serve people with IDD

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§ 20 — IDD AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY DAY

Designates May 23 as "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day"

SUMMARY

This bill evaluates and expands supports and services for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, unless noted otherwise below.

§ 1 — TRANSITION ACADEMY FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

Requires the DDS commissioner to establish, within available appropriations, a Transition Academy for Independent Living program to provide transition support for certain people with IDD

The bill requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) commissioner to establish, within available appropriations, a Transition Academy for Independent Living program to provide transitional tools and life skills development for participants with IDD who are at least 22 years of age. The program must prepare participants to transition from the K-12 education system or living with parents or guardians to living independently or quasi-independently through a DDS-administered residential program.

Under the bill, the program must meet the following requirements:

1. be between three to six months long, depending on the participant's individual needs and the availability of DDS resources;
2. include a residential component for each participant;
3. use current DDS-owned property to the extent possible and appropriate;
4. include family-centered practices for participants with parents or guardians; and
5. include a nonresidential component for parents and guardians to acclimate participants to DDS-administered residential programs.

The bill allows the DDS commissioner to establish multiple campuses to administer the program if they are located across the state and to consider the population density and distribution of likely applicants. He may issue a request for proposals (RFP) for a private provider to operate the program with department oversight, including unannounced site inspections, an evaluation of cost effectiveness, and audits of participant outcomes.

Starting by January 1, 2025, and annually afterwards, the

commissioner must report on the program to the Human Services and Public Health committees. The report must include data on the program's utilization and success, including (1) its demand and cost-effectiveness, (2) participants' general demographics and outcomes, and (3) any recommendations to modify or expand it.

§ 2 — OPM EVALUATION OF IDD EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Requires the OPM secretary to (1) analyze existing employee assistance programs for people with IDD and other disabilities, (2) establish financial incentives for businesses to hire them, and (3) create a related workforce plan

The bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to consult with the (1) aging and disability services (ADS), economic and community development (DECD), and labor (DOL) commissioners; (2) Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS); (3) Council on Developmental Disabilities; and (4) Connecticut Business Industry Association to do the following:

1. analyze existing employment assistance programs for people with disabilities, including IDD;
2. establish financial incentives for businesses to employ a greater number of these people; and
3. create a workforce plan that incentivizes businesses to provide training programs, offer modified interviews, and reserve market-rate, full-time jobs.

Under the bill, the OPM secretary must report by July 1, 2024, on the analysis results and any recommendations to the Appropriations; Commerce; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; Human Services; Labor; and Public Health committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 3 — TRANSPORTATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Requires the OPM secretary to (1) review other states' best transportation practices for people with disabilities and (2) assess transportation accessibility in Connecticut for these people and recommend improvements

The bill requires the OPM secretary, in consultation with the ADS, DDS, and transportation (DOT) commissioners and the Council on Developmental Disabilities, to do the following:

1. review other states' best transportation practices for people with disabilities;
2. assess statewide and local transportation accessibility and expansion opportunities for these people; and
3. develop recommendations on ways the state can provide more cost-effective, efficient, and reliable transportation for people with disabilities, including IDD.

Under the bill, the secretary must report by July 1, 2024, on the results of the review and recommendations to the Appropriations, Human Services, Public Health, and Transportation committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 4 — REDUCING DDS MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM WAITLISTS

Requires the DSS commissioner to, within available appropriations, reduce the waiting lists for services in DDS-administered Medicaid waiver programs

The bill requires the social services (DSS) commissioner, in consultation with the DDS commissioner and within available appropriations, to reduce the waiting lists for services in DDS-administered Medicaid waiver programs. By January 1, 2024, she must report to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health committees on the number of people (1) removed from the waiting lists and are receiving home and community-based services and (2) remaining on the waiting lists.

§ 5 — REDEFINING IDD AND SERVICE ELIGIBILITY

Requires the OPM secretary to (1) develop and recommend new statutory definitions for IDD, (2) identify related programs that may need to be updated based on the new definitions, and (3) recommend qualifying criteria for serving these people

The bill requires the OPM secretary, in consultation with the ADS, DDS, education (SDE), public health (DPH), and DSS commissioners

and the Council on Developmental Disabilities, to (1) develop and recommend new statutory definitions for IDD and (2) identify related programs for people with these disabilities that may need to be changed or redesignated in accordance with any new definitions. The secretary must also recommend qualifying criteria for serving these people, including possibly removing a qualifying intelligence quotient (IQ). In developing the recommendations, the secretary and state officials must solicit and take into account input from people with IDD and their families and caregivers.

Under the bill, the secretary must report by January 1, 2024, to the Appropriations, Education, Human Services, and Public Health committees on the recommended statutory definitions, programs redesignations, and qualifying criteria for services. The report must include a summary of the input obtained and how it was incorporated into the recommendations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 6 — AUTISM MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM EXPANSION

Requires the DSS commissioner, within available appropriations, to expand the Medicaid waiver program for people with autism spectrum disorder to allow at least 600 people on a waiting list to receive services

The bill requires the DSS commissioner, in consultation with the OPM secretary and within available appropriations, to expand the Medicaid waiver program for people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to allow at least 600 people on a waiting list to receive program services.

By January 1, 2024, the commissioner must report to the Appropriations and Human Services committees on the waiver expansion and recommendations to further reduce the waiting list.

§§ 7 & 8 — INCREASING HUSKY C ASSET & INCOME LIMITS

Requires the DSS commissioner to increase HUSKY C asset and income limits

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to increase the HUSKY C program's asset limit from (1) \$1,600 to \$3,600 for an individual and (2)

\$2,400 to \$5,400 for a married couple. (HUSKY C provides Medicaid services to people ages 65 or older or ages 16 to 65 who are blind or living with a disability.)

Under the bill, the commissioner must allow anyone whose income exceeds HUSKY C program limits, but who otherwise qualifies, to qualify by spending down their excess income on incurred medical bills as federal law allows.

The bill also increases the HUSKY C monthly income limit to \$1,465, instead of 143% of the Temporary Family Assistance cash assistance benefit (currently \$700 for an individual and \$946 for a two-person household).

Under the bill, the commissioner may seek federal approval for a Medicaid waiver or state plan amendment to implement these provisions.

§ 9 — DESPP MISSING PERSONS CLEARINGHOUSE

Expands the scope of the DESPP's missing persons information clearing house to include information on missing people with IDD

By law, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) administers a missing persons information clearinghouse that is a repository of information to help law enforcement agencies locate missing persons ages 65 and older or ages 18 and older with a mental impairment. The bill expands the clearinghouse to also include information on missing people with IDD.

As under current law, the clearinghouse must collect, process, maintain, and disseminate this information if a report prepared by DESPP has been filed by the missing person's relative, guardian, conservator, attorney, health care representative, or nursing home administrator. In practice, any police department may prepare the report for clearinghouse action.

§ 10 — BONDS FOR LOCAL VOLUNTARY IDD REGISTRATION SYSTEMS

Authorizes the State Bond Commission to authorize up to \$1 million in state general obligation bonds for DESPP to provide grants to municipalities and local police departments to establish and implement a registration system for residents with IDD

The bill authorizes the State Bond Commission to authorize up to \$1 million in state general obligation (GO) bonds for DESPP to provide grants to municipalities and local police departments to establish and implement a local voluntary registration system for residents with IDD. The bonds are subject to standard issuance procedures and have a maximum term of 20 years.

§ 11 — DATA ON DDS WAITLISTS AND IDD SERVICES RECIPIENTS

Requires DDS to maintain data on the number of state residents (1) estimated to have IDD, (2) receiving DDS- or SDE- administered services, and (3) on waiting lists for DDS-administered Medicaid waiver programs

The bill requires the DDS commissioner, in consultation with the SDE commissioner, to maintain in a readily accessible format data on the number of people (1) estimated in the state with IDD, (2) receiving services from DDS- or SDE-administered programs, and (3) on waiting lists for DDS-administered Medicaid waiver programs, by program.

Under the bill, the DDS commissioner must annually report on this data annually by December 15 to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 12 — BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES CAREER PIPELINE PROGRAM

Requires OWS to establish a Behavioral Health and Human Services Career Pipeline program to ensure highly trained providers are available to serve the needs of state residents with IDD, physical disabilities, mental illness, or behavioral health conditions

The bill requires OWS, in collaboration with the ADS, DDS, DSS, and SDE commissioners, to establish a Behavioral Health and Human Services Career Pipeline program to ensure a sufficient number of highly trained providers are available to serve the needs of state residents with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities; mental illness; or behavioral health conditions.

Under the bill, OWS must consult with the DDS, mental health and

addiction services (DMHAS), and DSS commissioners to determine (1) the greatest needs for behavioral health and human services providers in programs they administer and (2) barriers to hiring and retaining qualified providers.

The bill also requires OWS to assist the following entities:

1. local and regional boards of education to enhance existing partnerships or establish new partnerships with behavioral health and human services providers and
2. higher education institutions to provide a pathway to a diploma, credential, certificate, or license and a job providing behavioral health or human services.

Under the bill, OWS, in collaboration with the ADS and SDE commissioners, must develop a strategic workforce plan that includes (1) a strategy to increase the number of state residents pursuing careers in behavioral health or human services, (2) salaries and working conditions conducive to retaining an adequate number of these providers to serve state residents, and (3) funding needed to support the career pipeline program.

The bill requires OWS to report on the plan by November 1, 2023, to the Education, Human Services, Labor, and Public Health committees.

§ 13 — RIGHTS OF PEOPLE UNDER DDS SUPERVISION

Requires the DDS commissioner to review the rights of people placed or treated under the commissioner's supervision in public or private facilities to determine whether modifications are needed

Existing law grants people placed or treated under the DDS commissioner's supervision in public or private facilities certain rights, such as the right to (1) prompt, sufficient, and appropriate medical and dental treatment; (2) be free from unnecessary or excessive physical restraint; and (3) communicate freely and privately with any person of their choosing (CGS § 17a-238).

The bill requires the DDS commissioner to review these rights to

determine whether additions or changes are needed to ensure that these people are afforded all rights due to them and may seek a remedy in court for a violation of their rights.

Under the bill, the commissioner must report to the Human Services and Public Health committees by December 1, 2023, on his recommendations for (1) any changes necessary to these statutory rights and (2) any action needed to ensure that the rights of all people with IDD are protected, regardless of whether they are placed or treated under the commissioner's supervision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 14 — STATE AGENCY ONLINE DATA PORTAL

Requires DAS to develop an online portal to share information between agencies serving people with IDD, physical disabilities, or ASD

The bill requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to develop an online portal to securely share information between agencies serving people with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities and people with ASD.

§ 15 — OFFICE OF THE HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE CAREGIVER POINT OF CONTACT

Requires the Healthcare Advocate to establish a new position within his office to serve as a point of contact for caregivers of adults with IDD, physical disabilities, or ASD who need help obtaining state services

By October 1, 2023, the bill requires the Healthcare Advocate to establish a new position within his office to serve as a point of contact for caregivers of adults with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities or ASD who need help assessing, applying for, and obtaining state services. The advocate, within available appropriations, must hire a person who meets his prescribed qualifications for the position.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 16 — CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION STUDY

Requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission to study the experience of people with IDD or ASD who are in the criminal justice system

The bill requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission to study the experience of people with IDD or ASD who are in the criminal justice system. The study must include (1) incarceration rates of people with IDD and ASD compared to their overall population in the state and (2) other states' best practices.

Under the bill, the commission must report the study results, including recommendations for sentencing considerations for these people, to the Human Services, Judiciary, and Public Health committees by July 1, 2024.

§ 17 — OHS STATE-WIDE COORDINATOR FOR DISABILITY AND ASD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Requires OHS to establish a new position to serve as statewide coordinator of state agency programs and services for people with IDD, physical disabilities, or ASD

The bill requires the Office of Health Strategy's (OHS) executive director to establish a new position within her office to serve as statewide coordinator of state agency programs and services for people with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities or ASD.

Under the bill, the coordinator must make recommendations to the executive director on strategies to improve services offered to these communities and service gaps. The bill authorizes the executive director to hire, within available appropriations, a person who meets her prescribed qualifications for the position.

§ 18 — EVALUATING LEVEL OF NEED ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Requires the DDS commissioner to evaluate the level-of-need assessment tool used by state agencies that serve people with IDD

The bill requires the DDS commissioner, in consultation with the SDE and DPH commissioners and the Council on Developmental Disabilities, to evaluate the level-of-need assessment tool used by state agencies that serve people with IDD. The evaluation must do the following:

1. analyze best practices and other states' assessment tools;
2. assess alternative tools, models, or ways to capture a person's

service needs;

3. evaluate how funding levels for services and programs are determined for each person; and
4. determine which states are executing similar programs via self-direct care.

Under the bill, the DDS commissioner must report the study results to the Human Services and Public Health committees by July 1, 2024.

§ 19 — BONDS FOR GROUP HOME COMPLIANCE WITH FIRE REGULATIONS

Authorizes the State Bond Commission to authorize up to \$1 million in state GO bonds for DESPP to provide financial assistance to private group home providers to comply with certain fire regulations; requires DESPP to assess the level of need for these funds and review other states' fire regulations

The bill authorizes the State Bond Commission to authorize up to \$1 million in state GO bonds for DESPP to create a funding pool to allow private providers to apply for financial assistance to comply with the fire regulation requirement that group homes be equipped with a 5,000-gallon water tank. The bonds are subject to standard issuance procedures and have a maximum term of 20 years

Additionally, the bill requires DESPP, in consultation with OPM, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, and the Connecticut Builders Trade Association to assess the level of need for these funds and review other states' fire regulations for group homes, including the New England states, California, and Colorado, to determine whether any changes are necessary to Connecticut regulations.

§ 20 — IDD AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY DAY

Designates May 23 as "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day"

The bill designates May 23 as "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day" to promote awareness of and advocacy for people with IDD. It requires suitable exercises to be held at the Capitol and in public schools (1) on this day, or (2) if that day is not a school day, on the school day before this day or another day the

local or regional board of education prescribes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference - APP
Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/21/2023)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 52 Nay 0 (04/20/2023)