



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 438**

January Session, 2023

Substitute Senate Bill No. 991

*Senate, April 5, 2023*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. LESSER of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, "certified community health worker" has the same meaning as  
3 provided in section 20-195ttt of the general statutes. The Commissioner  
4 of Social Services shall design and implement a program to provide  
5 Medicaid reimbursement to certified community health workers for  
6 services provided to HUSKY Health program members, including, but  
7 not limited to: (1) Coordination of medical, oral and behavioral health  
8 care services and social supports; (2) connection to and navigation of  
9 health systems and services; (3) prenatal, birth, lactation and  
10 postpartum supports; and (4) health promotion, coaching and self-  
11 management education.

12 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide reimbursement  
13 for the services of certified community health workers in a manner and  
14 at a rate conducive to workforce growth and that does not provide

15 financial incentives for other providers to limit access to such  
16 community health workers.

17 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services and the commissioner's  
18 designees shall consult with certified community health workers,  
19 Medicaid beneficiaries and advocates, including, but not limited to,  
20 advocates for persons with physical, mental and developmental  
21 disabilities, and others throughout the design and implementation of  
22 the certified community health worker reimbursement program in a  
23 manner that (1) is inclusive of community-based and clinic-based  
24 certified community health workers; (2) is representative of medical  
25 assistance program member demographics; and (3) helps shape the  
26 reimbursement program's design and implementation.

27 (d) Not later than January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter until the  
28 reimbursement program is fully implemented, the Commissioner of  
29 Social Services shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions  
30 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee  
31 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
32 human services and the Council on Medical Assistance Program  
33 Oversight. Such report shall contain an update on the certified  
34 community health worker reimbursement program and an evaluation  
35 of its impact on health outcomes and health equity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with designing and implementing a program to provide Medicaid reimbursement to certified community health workers. The extent of cost to the state depends on the Medicaid rate to be established and the utilization of services provided by community health workers.

For context, the bill specifies that the rate be conducive to workforce growth and does not provide financial incentives for other providers to limit access to such community health workers. Covered services include the coordination of medical, oral and behavioral health care services, health systems navigation, self-management education, and prenatal, birth, lactation and postpartum supports.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to associated Medicaid rates and service utilization.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 991*****AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services commissioner to design and implement a program to provide Medicaid reimbursement to certified community health workers (CHWs; see BACKGROUND) for services provided to HUSKY Health (i.e., Medicaid and the state children's health insurance program) beneficiaries, including the following:

1. coordination of medical, oral, and behavioral health care services and social supports;
2. connection to, and navigation of, health systems and services;
3. prenatal, birth, lactation, and postpartum supports; and
4. health promotion, coaching, and self-management education.

The bill requires the commissioner to reimburse certified CHW services in a manner and at a rate conducive to workforce growth that does not provide financial incentives for other providers to limit access to them.

Throughout the program's design and implementation, the commissioner and her designees must consult with certified CHWs, Medicaid beneficiaries, and advocates, including those for people with physical, mental, and developmental disabilities, and others. They must consult in a manner that (1) is inclusive of community-based and clinic-based certified CHWs, (2) is representative of Medicaid beneficiary

demographics, and (3) helps shape the program’s design and implementation.

The bill also requires the commissioner, by January 1, 2024, and annually after that until the program is fully implemented, to report to the Human Services Committee and the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight. The report must provide a program update and evaluate its impact on health outcomes and health equity.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND**

***Certified Community Health Worker***

By law, a certified CHW is a public health outreach professional with an in-depth understanding of the experience, language, culture, and socioeconomic needs of the community. CHWs provide 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**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 7 (03/21/2023)