

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1210
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ISSUES CONCERNING
Title: RURAL HEALTH.
Vote Date: 3/27/2023
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/22/2023
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Connecticut, like many states throughout the country, is facing a health care crisis exacerbated by the pandemic and rampant inflation. The health care workforce has been particularly impacted, especially in rural areas of our state.

This bill establishes a 10-member task force to study rural health issues with a focus on the following:

- To examine available resources and services to support health care providers in these areas, and
- To develop methods to coordinate and streamline these resources and services.

The report and recommendations of the task force must be submitted to the Public Health Committee by January 1, 2024. The task force terminates on the date the report is submitted.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Representative Irene Haines, 34th Assembly District, CT General Assembly (CGA):

Representative Haines represents a rural district that encompasses 57 square miles and supports the creation of this task force to study the unique concerns of providing health care in rural areas. She explains that it can take as much as half an hour to reach patients and double that time to get to a "nearby" medical facility. Also, scope of practice and proximity to a medical facility and/or the medical director might differ in lifesaving protocols. Certain medical directors allow specific standards that vary across the state. When you factor in the geography, there might be more important protocols to consider.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA):

The CHA supports the creation of this task force to study a critically important issue and requests that the Committee include CHA as a member of the task force.

Kayla Bertussi, resident of Connecticut:

Ms. Bertussi supports this bill which provides a necessary step to address the current shortages in health care making sure that all residents of our state are getting access to adequate health care.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Kathleen Panazza

Date: April 4, 2023