



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5001**

January Session, 2023



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

19 nonresidential component for parents and guardians to acclimate  
20 participants to 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  
33 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
34 of matters relating to human services and public health. The report  
35 shall contain data on the utilization and success of the program,  
36 including, but not limited to, (1) program demand, (2) the general  
37 demographics and outcomes of program participants, (3) the cost-  
38 effectiveness of the program, and (4) any recommendations to modify  
39 or expand the 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  
48 developmental disabilities, (2) establish financial incentives for  
49 businesses to employ a greater number of such persons, and (3) create  
50 a workforce plan that incentivizes businesses to provide training  
51 programs, offer modified interviews and reserve market-rate full-time

52 jobs.

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

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

71 (b) The secretary shall file a report, in accordance with the  
72 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, on the results of the  
73 review and recommendations not later than July 1, 2024, with the joint  
74 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
75 matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,  
76 transportation, human services and public health.

77 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Social Services, in  
78 consultation with the Commissioner of Developmental Services and  
79 within available appropriations, shall reduce the waiting lists for  
80 services in Medicaid waiver programs established under section  
81 1915(c) of the Social Security Act and administered by the Department  
82 of Developmental Services. Not later than January 1, 2024, the  
83 Commissioner of Social Services shall file a report, in accordance with

84 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on (1) the  
85 number of persons who have been removed from the waiting lists and  
86 are receiving home and community-based services, and (2) the number  
87 of persons who remain on the waiting lists with the joint standing  
88 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
89 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human  
90 services and public health.

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

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

109       (c) Not later than January 1, 2024, the secretary shall file a report, in  
110 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
111 with recommendations on such statutory definitions, programs that  
112 may need to be redesignated in accordance with any new statutory  
113 definitions and qualifying criteria for services with the joint standing  
114 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
115 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, education,  
116 human services and public health. The report shall include a summary

117 of the input obtained pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and  
118 how the input was incorporated into the recommendations.

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

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

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

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

143       (a) Medical assistance shall be provided for any otherwise eligible  
144 person (1) whose income, including any available support from legally  
145 liable relatives and the income of the person's spouse or dependent  
146 child, is not more than [one hundred forty-three per cent, pending  
147 approval of a federal waiver applied for pursuant to subsection (e) of

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

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

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

211 (c) For the purposes of determining eligibility for the Medicaid  
212 program, an available asset is one that is actually available to the  
213 applicant or one that the applicant has the legal right, authority or  
214 power to obtain or to have applied for the applicant's general or  
215 medical support. If the terms of a trust provide for the support of an

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

233 (d) The transfer of an asset in exchange for other valuable  
234 consideration shall be allowable to the extent the value of the other  
235 valuable consideration is equal to or greater than the value of the asset  
236 transferred.

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

243 (f) To the extent [permitted by] permissible under federal law,  
244 Medicaid eligibility shall be extended for one year to a family that  
245 becomes ineligible for medical assistance under Section 1931 of the  
246 Social Security Act due to income from employment by one of its  
247 members who is a caretaker relative or due to receipt of child support  
248 income. A family receiving extended benefits on July 1, 2005, shall



249 receive the balance of such extended benefits, provided no such family  
250 shall receive more than twelve additional months of such benefits.

251 (g) An institutionalized spouse applying for Medicaid and having a  
252 spouse living in the community shall be required, to the maximum  
253 extent permitted by law, to divert income to such community spouse  
254 in order to raise the community spouse's income to the level of the  
255 minimum monthly needs allowance, as described in Section 1924 of  
256 the Social Security Act. Such diversion of income shall occur before the  
257 community spouse is allowed to retain assets in excess of the  
258 community spouse protected amount described in Section 1924 of the  
259 Social Security Act. The Commissioner of Social Services, pursuant to  
260 section 17b-10, may implement the provisions of this subsection while  
261 in the process of adopting regulations, provided the commissioner  
262 prints notice of intent to adopt the regulations in the Connecticut Law  
263 Journal within twenty days of adopting such policy. Such policy shall  
264 be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

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

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

282 qualifying for, the Medicaid program.

283 (j) The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide Early and  
284 Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment program services, as  
285 required and defined as of December 31, 2005, by 42 USC 1396a(a)(43),  
286 42 USC 1396d(r) and 42 USC 1396d(a)(4)(B) and applicable federal  
287 regulations, to all persons who are under the age of twenty-one and  
288 otherwise eligible for medical assistance under this section.

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

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

307 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 29-1f of the general statutes is  
308 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
309 *1, 2023*):

310 (a) The clearinghouse established under section 29-1e shall collect,  
311 process, maintain and disseminate information to assist in the location  
312 of any missing person who (1) is eighteen years of age or older and has

313 a mental impairment, [or] (2) is sixty-five years of age or older, or (3)  
314 has an intellectual or developmental disability, provided a missing  
315 person report prepared by the Department of Emergency Services and  
316 Public Protection has been filed by such missing person's relative,  
317 guardian, conservator or agent appointed by the missing person in  
318 accordance with sections 1-350 to 1-353b, inclusive, any health care  
319 representative appointed by the missing person in accordance with  
320 section 19a-576 or a nursing home administrator, as defined in section  
321 19a-511, or, pursuant to section 17a-465b, by an employee of the  
322 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services who is certified  
323 under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive. Such  
324 relative, guardian, conservator, agent, health care representative,  
325 nursing home administrator or employee shall attest under penalty of  
326 perjury that the missing person (A) is eighteen years of age or older  
327 and has a mental impairment, [or] (B) is sixty-five years of age or older,  
328 or (C) has an intellectual or developmental disability. No other proof  
329 shall be required in order to verify that the missing person meets the  
330 criteria to be eligible for assistance under this subsection. Such relative,  
331 guardian, conservator, agent, health care representative, nursing home  
332 administrator or employee who files a missing person report shall  
333 immediately notify the clearinghouse or law enforcement agency if the  
334 missing person's location has been determined.

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

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

346 developmental disabilities.

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

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

379 Medicaid waiver programs administered by the Department of  
380 Developmental Services, by waiver program.

381 (b) Not later than December fifteenth annually, the Commissioner of  
382 Developmental Services shall file a report, in accordance with the  
383 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the data collected  
384 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section with the joint standing  
385 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
386 relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, human  
387 services and public health.

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

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

407 (c) The Office of Workforce Strategy, in collaboration with the  
408 Commissioners of Education and Aging and Disability Services, shall  
409 develop a strategic workforce plan that includes, but is not limited to,  
410 (1) a strategy to increase the number of state residents pursuing careers

411 in behavioral health or human services, (2) salary and working  
412 conditions conducive to retaining an adequate number of behavioral  
413 health and human services providers to serve state residents, and (3)  
414 funding needed to support the Behavioral Health and Human Services  
415 Career Pipeline program. The Office of Workforce Strategy shall  
416 submit a report on the plan, in accordance with the provisions of  
417 section 11-4a of the general statutes, not later than November 1, 2023,  
418 with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
419 cognizance of matters relating to education, human services, public  
420 health and labor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

469 (NEW) (e) The executive director of the Office of Health Strategy  
470 shall establish a new position within the office to serve as state-wide  
471 coordinator of programs and services provided by state agencies for  
472 persons with intellectual, developmental or physical disabilities or  
473 autism spectrum disorder. The coordinator shall make  
474 recommendations to the executive director concerning strategies to  
475 improve services offered to such persons and gaps in services. The

476 executive director, within available appropriations, may hire a person  
477 who meets qualifications prescribed by the executive director for the  
478 position.

479       Sec. 18. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Commissioner of Developmental  
480 Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Education and  
481 Public Health and the Council on Developmental Disabilities, shall  
482 evaluate the level-of-need assessment tool used by state agencies that  
483 serve persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities to (1)  
484 analyze best practices and assessment tools used by other states, (2)  
485 assess alternative tools, models or ways to capture an individual's  
486 service needs, (3) evaluate how funding levels for services and  
487 programs are determined for each individual, and (4) determine which  
488 states are executing similar programs via self-direct care. The  
489 Commissioner of Developmental Services shall report the results of the  
490 study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
491 statutes, not later than July 1, 2024, to the joint standing committees of  
492 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human  
493 services and public health.

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

499       (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the  
500 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the  
501 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the  
502 purpose of establishing a pool of funds to allow private providers to  
503 apply for financial assistance to comply with fire regulation  
504 requirements that any group home be equipped with a five-thousand  
505 gallon water tank. The department, in consultation with the Office of  
506 Policy and Management, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns and  
507 the Connecticut Builders Trade Association, shall assess level of need  
508 for funds and review fire regulations for group homes in other states,



509 including, but not limited to, New England states, California and  
510 Colorado, to determine whether any changes are necessary in state fire  
511 regulations for such group homes.

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

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

539 (NEW) (108) Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness  
540 and Advocacy Day. The Governor shall proclaim May twenty-third of  
541 each year to be Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness

542 and Advocacy Day to promote awareness of and advocacy for persons  
 543 with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Suitable exercises  
 544 shall be held in the State Capitol and in public schools on the day so  
 545 designated or, if that day is not a school day, on the school day  
 546 preceding, or on any such other day as the local or regional board of  
 547 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
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	17b-261
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	29-1f(a)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	38a-1041(i)
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	19a-754a(e)
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	10-29a(a)(108)

**HS**

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP