



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 290

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5458

House of Representatives, April 4, 2024

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. GILCHREST of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING HOMELESSNESS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "Connecticut Housing Engagement and Support Services" or "CHESS"
3 means a home and community-based services program established
4 pursuant to a Medicaid state plan amendment under Section 1915(i) of
5 the Social Security Act and a Medicaid waiver pursuant to Section
6 1915(b)(4) of the Social Security Act to improve housing stability and
7 health outcomes for persons in accordance with federally approved
8 criteria.

9 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
10 Commissioners of Housing and Mental Health and Addiction Services,
11 shall develop a strategic plan to improve outcomes for participants in
12 the CHESS program and to reduce housing instability state-wide. The
13 plan shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Any amendments to
14 the state plan or waiver programs established pursuant to Sections
15 1915(i) and 1915(b)(4) of the Social Security Act necessary to achieve the
16 goals of the strategic plan, (2) streamlining multiagency administrative
17 procedures to ensure timely benefits to persons who have experienced

18 or are at risk of homelessness, and (3) exploring and applying for federal
 19 approval for additional Medicaid waiver programs or Medicaid state
 20 plan amendments to target social determinants of health with support,
 21 including, but not limited to, housing, nutritional and health
 22 management supports. For purposes of this section, "social
 23 determinants of health" means the conditions in which people are born,
 24 grow, work and age.

25 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Social
 26 Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Housing and
 27 Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall file a report, in accordance
 28 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint
 29 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 30 matters relating to aging, children, human services and public health.
 31 The report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Metrics related
 32 to health, housing and economic stability of participants in the CHES
 33 program, (2) plans and progress regarding streamlining multiagency
 34 administrative procedures in such program, (3) identification of
 35 additional Medicaid waiver programs or state plan amendments to
 36 address social determinants of health, and (4) a timeline for applications
 37 for such Medicaid waiver programs or state plan amendments.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
 In Section 1(b)(3), "federal approval for" was inserted after "applying for" for clarity.

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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop a strategic plan, in consultation with the Departments of Housing and Mental Health and Addiction Services, to improve outcomes for participants in the CHES program and to reduce housing instability. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the agencies have the expertise necessary to meet the requirements of the bill.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5458

AN ACT CONCERNING HOMELESSNESS.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/19/2024)