



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

**Raised Bill No. 5458**

LCO No. 2650



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

**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 (1) with complex health conditions, (2) who  
8 have experienced homelessness, and (3) who have been determined to  
9 be likely to benefit from targeted services to improve health and housing  
10 stability.

11 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the  
12 Commissioners of Housing and Mental Health and Addiction Services,  
13 shall develop a strategic plan to improve outcomes for participants in  
14 the CHESS program and to reduce housing instability state-wide. The  
15 plan shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Any amendments to the state  
16 plan or waiver programs established pursuant to Sections 1915(i) and

17 1915(b)(4) of the Social Security Act necessary to achieve the goals of the  
18 strategic plan, (2) streamlining multiagency administrative procedures  
19 to ensure timely benefits to persons who have experienced or are at risk  
20 of homelessness, and (3) exploring and applying for additional  
21 Medicaid waiver programs or Medicaid state plan amendments to  
22 target social determinants of health with support, including, but not  
23 limited to, housing, nutritional and health management supports. For  
24 purposes of this section, "social determinants of health" means the  
25 conditions in which people are born, grow, work and age.

26 (c) Not later than October 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Social  
27 Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Housing and  
28 Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall file a report, in accordance  
29 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint  
30 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
31 matters relating to aging, children, human services and public health.  
32 The report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Metrics related  
33 to health, housing and economic stability of participants in the CHES  
34 program, (2) plans and progress regarding streamlining multiagency  
35 administrative procedures in such program, (3) identification of  
36 additional Medicaid waiver programs or state plan amendments to  
37 address social determinants of health, and (4) a timeline for applications  
38 for such Medicaid waiver programs or state plan amendments.

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

**Statement of Purpose:**

To maximize efforts to aid homeless persons.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*