



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5458

February Session, 2024



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, housing, human services and public
31 health. The report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Metrics
32 related to health, housing and economic stability of participants in the
33 CHESS program, (2) plans and progress regarding streamlining
34 multiagency administrative procedures in such program, (3)
35 identification of additional Medicaid waiver programs or state plan
36 amendments to address social determinants of health, and (4) a timeline
37 for applications for such Medicaid waiver programs or state plan
38 amendments.

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

HSG *Joint Favorable Subst.*