
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5296

AN ACT EXPANDING THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to compensate family caregivers, including spouses, who provide personal care assistance services to enrollees of the Connecticut Home-Care Program for the Elderly (CHCPE) (see BACKGROUND). The bill generally limits the requirement to compensate family caregivers to the extent it is allowed under federal law, but this limit does not apply to the state-funded portion of the program.

The bill expands the information that the DSS commissioner must include in her annual CHCPE report to the Human Services Committee. It requires her to report certain data on adult family living services provided under the program, including the estimated savings to the state by offering those services.

The bill also requires the commissioner to develop and implement a multilingual public awareness campaign by January 1, 2025, to promote adult family living services under CHCPE.

Lastly, the bill makes a technical change to reference “adult family living” instead of “elderly foster care” services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY

Annual Report

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to include the following information about adult family living services under the program in her report to the Human Services Committee, which is due by June 1 annually:

1. the participation rate of people receiving adult living services,
2. the number of home care agencies administering those services,
3. the primary languages spoken by those receiving the services,
and
4. the estimated savings to the state for not institutionalizing the people receiving those services.

Public Awareness Campaign

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to develop and implement a multilingual public awareness campaign by January 1, 2025, to promote adult family living services under CHCPE. Materials developed for the campaign must be translated into the 15 most common languages spoken in the state. The commissioner must make copies of these materials publicly available at various times and locations in the state, as she determines, and post them on the DSS website.

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Home-Care Program for the Elderly

CHCPE is a Medicaid-waiver and state-funded program that provides a range of home- and community-based services for eligible individuals 65 years or older who are at risk of inappropriate institutionalization (e.g., nursing home placement). In comparison to the Medicaid-waiver component, the program’s state-funded portion has no income limit and has higher asset limits. The state has authority to limit program enrollment or make wait lists based on available resources.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 14 Nay 1 (03/12/2024)