
July 2016 Update for Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI)

- **PRI had a successful 2016 session** with three public acts containing study recommendations from 2015 and 2014 PRI studies, along with a pledge from two agencies to improve health records privacy. The budget implementer also drew from a 2009 PRI study on Connecticut's economic competitiveness in selected areas (see below).
- **PRI staff are out in the field working on the current studies.** To assess how programs are actually performing, staff are:
 - Interviewing personnel from state, local, and federal agencies; contract staff; program clients; and other stakeholders;
 - Drafting surveys for broader report input;
 - Visiting offices and facilities across the state; and
 - Working as always to identify, develop, and analyze data, from budget information to program outcomes.

This in-depth research will produce fact-based findings and, as needed for program improvement based on those findings, recommendations for the committee's consideration. The current study topics are listed below; see the next page for more information.

1. Factors Influencing Receipt of Long-Term Care Services and Supports in Home and Community Settings
2. Department of Children and Families: Substance Use Services
3. Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities: Discrimination Complaint Process
4. Use of Hartford-Brainard Airport's Site

Selected 2016 Legislative Results from PRI Oversight Workⁱ

Based on 2015 Studies

- **P.A. 16-68** and **P.A. 16-114** included recommendations from the 2015 PRI studies on: the state Department of **Veterans' Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance**; and the **state apprenticeship programs** and workforce needs, respectively. In both cases, the PRI recommendations called for program improvements to better assist the people the programs were intended by the legislature to assist.
- **In lieu of raised legislation**, DPH and DCP proactively agreed via letters to the PRI committee to administratively resolve deficiencies found during the 2015 PRI study on **health information privacy** in selected state programs.

Based on Earlier Studies (PRI recommendations can take time to implement)

- **P.A. 16-44** arose from a 2014 PRI study of **higher education certificates** requested by the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. PRI and Higher Ed bills raised in 2015 didn't pass, but Higher Education re-raised a similar bill in 2016.
- The first several sections of **P.A. 16-3 May SS** (budget implementer) were spurred by a 2009 PRI study on **Connecticut's economic competitiveness** in selected areas
- While not ultimately enacted, legislation **passed the House to prohibit the weaponization of drones and clarify law enforcement use**, based on a 2014 PRI study of drone regulation

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requested by Judiciary Committee members, with significant coordination with the Public Safety Committee. The Senate did not take the bill up. This was a reversal from **the year before**, when **the Senate passed a PRI drone bill** but the House did not take that bill up.

2016 PRI Committee Studies Underway

1. Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO): Discrimination Complaint Processing. The study is:

- Evaluating the CHRO discriminatory practice complaint process as it relates to employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations; and
- Closely scrutinizing changes made to the process by Public Act 11-237.

[Learn more – click to see the study scope, approved 4/13/16](#)

2. Department of Children and Families: Substance Use Services. The study is:

- Assessing Department of Children and Families (DCF) services that address parental and child substance use disorders;
- Examining the nature and extent of DCF program coordination with other related governmental and community agencies; and
- Highlighting, where possible, the impact the increase in heroin and other opioid use in Connecticut has had on child protection services, if any.

[Learn more – click to see the study scope, approved 4/13/16](#)

3. Factors Influencing Receipt of Long-Term Care Services and Supports in Home and Community Settings. The study is:

- Examining what differentiates Connecticut residents who receive long-term services and supports in the community versus in nursing homes; and
- Identifying ways these findings may be used to increase efficiency and potentially reduce costs.

[Learn more – click to see the study scope, approved 4/13/16](#)

4. Use of Hartford-Brainard Airport's Site. The study is:

- Examining if the state has maximized the economic value of the land upon which Hartford-Brainard Airport sits, including the site's current use as an airport;
- Discussing and exploring other uses of the site that have been previously proposed; and
- Describing other cases nationwide in which closure was pursued for similar airports.

[Learn more – click to see the study scope, approved 7/9/15; work began 1/4/16 upon staff availability](#)

¹ PRI studies have impact that is additional to enacting legislation; this update, though, is focused on that aspect of PRI committee work.