



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 414**

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5356

*House of Representatives, April 7, 2026*

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 NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL  
TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-276 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2026*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall identify geographic  
5 areas of the state where competitive bidding for nonemergency  
6 transportation services provided to medical assistance recipients to  
7 access covered medical services would result in cost savings to the state.  
8 For the identified areas, the Commissioner of Social Services, in  
9 consultation with the Commissioner of Transportation, the  
10 Commissioner of Public Health and the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
11 and Management, shall purchase such nonemergency transportation  
12 services through a competitive bidding process. Any transportation  
13 providers awarded a contract or subcontract for the direct provision of  
14 such services shall meet state licensure or certification requirements and

15 the nonemergency transportation requirements established by the  
16 Department of Social Services, and shall provide the most cost effective  
17 transportation service, provided (1) any contractor awarded a contract  
18 solely for coordinating such transportation services shall not be required  
19 to meet such licensure or certification requirements, [and provided] (2)  
20 the first such contracts for the purchase of such services shall not exceed  
21 one year, and (3) any driver providing services under such contract or  
22 subcontract who is operating under the provisions of subdivision (3) of  
23 subsection (e) of section 14-44, shall be deemed to have met the  
24 requirements prescribed in this subsection for a period not to exceed  
25 ninety days in the aggregate. Prior to awarding a contract pursuant to  
26 this section, the Commissioner of Social Services shall consider the effect  
27 of the contract on the emergency ambulance primary service areas and  
28 volunteer ambulance services affected by the contract. The  
29 commissioner may limit the geographic areas to be served by a  
30 contractor and may limit the amount of services to be performed by a  
31 contractor. The commissioner may operate one or more pilot programs  
32 prior to state-wide operation of a competitive bidding program for  
33 nonemergency transportation services. By enrolling in the Medicaid  
34 program or participating in the competitively bid contract for  
35 nonemergency transportation services, providers of nonemergency  
36 transportation services agree to offer to recipients of medical assistance  
37 all types or levels of transportation services for which they are licensed  
38 or certified. Effective October 1, 1991, payment for such services shall be  
39 made only for services provided to an eligible recipient who is actually  
40 transported. A contract entered into pursuant to this section may  
41 include services provided by another state agency. Notwithstanding  
42 any provision of the general statutes, a contract entered into pursuant  
43 to this section shall establish the rates to be paid for the transportation  
44 services provided under the contract. The Commissioner of Social  
45 Services shall, at least annually, (A) review such rates, (B) ensure such  
46 rates are adequate to provide a pool of nonemergency medical  
47 transportation drivers to provide Medicaid recipients access to such  
48 transportation services, and (C) ensure such rates are included in each  
49 contract. A contract entered into pursuant to this section may include

50 services provided by another state agency and shall supersede any  
 51 conflicting provisions of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies  
 52 pertaining to medical transportation services. Any contractor awarded  
 53 a contract for coordinating nonemergency transportation services for  
 54 medical assistance recipients, who also coordinates transportation  
 55 services for nonmedical assistance recipients, shall disclose to any  
 56 transportation provider, with whom it subcontracts to provide  
 57 nonemergency transportation services under this section, the source of  
 58 payment at the time the service is requested.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	17b-276(a)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

The title was changed and the provisions of Subsec. (a)(3) were rewritten for clarity.

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

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:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill makes certain drivers eligible to provide nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) through a contract or subcontract with the Department of Social Services (DSS). To the extent that an increased number of drivers allowed under the bill (taxicab and livery) provide NEMT services at a higher rate than current providers, the state could experience a cost.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5356*****AN ACT CONCERNING NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows certain drivers who apply to the motor vehicles commissioner for a public passenger endorsement to operate taxicab or livery service vehicles (an F endorsement) to provide nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) under a Department of Social Services (DSS) contract or subcontract (see BACKGROUND) for up to 90 days while the application is pending.

Existing law allows taxicab or livery services providers to employ drivers who have applied for an F endorsement for up to 90 days before their endorsement is approved so long as the employer, after conducting a criminal background check and driving history review, determines the applicant meets requirements to operate these vehicles. The bill deems these drivers as also meeting requirements to provide NEMT.

The bill also requires the DSS commissioner to review Medicaid rates for NEMT at least annually to ensure that they are (1) adequate to give Medicaid recipients access to transportation from a pool of NEMT drivers and (2) in each contract.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

**BACKGROUND*****Nonemergency Medical Transportation***

DSS's NEMT program provides transportation to qualifying medical appointments for Medicaid members and Covered CT enrollees who have no other means of transportation. DSS currently contracts with

Medical Transportation Management (MTM) to provide NEMT services.

***Related Bill***

sHB 5041, favorably reported by the Human Services Committee, allows, rather than requires, Covered CT to provide NEMT coverage.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21    Nay 2    (03/19/2026)