



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 638

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5421

House of Representatives, April 15, 2026

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There is established a
2 separate, nonlapsing account to be known as the "health care facility
3 durable medical equipment account". The account shall contain (1) any
4 amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by the state for the
5 purposes of this section, (2) any moneys required by law to be deposited
6 in the account, and (3) gifts, grants, donations or bequests made for the
7 purposes of this section. Investment earnings credited to the assets of
8 the account shall become part of the assets of the account. The State
9 Treasurer shall administer the account.

10 (b) All moneys deposited in the account shall be used by the
11 Department of Public Health for the purposes of this section. The
12 Commissioner of Public Health may deduct and retain from the moneys
13 in the account an amount equal to the costs incurred by the department
14 in administering the provisions of this section, except said amount shall

15 not exceed two per cent of the balance of the account in any fiscal year.

16 (c) The Commissioner of Public Health shall use the health care
17 facility durable medical equipment account to make grants to health
18 care facilities, as defined in section 19a-490dd of the general statutes, to
19 purchase durable medical equipment to be used by elderly persons or
20 persons with disabilities. The commissioner shall not make any grant
21 that exceeds the balance available for grants in the account. For
22 purposes of this section, "durable medical equipment" means
23 equipment that is used to assist persons with disabilities, injuries or
24 chronic health conditions in performing tasks or achieving greater
25 functional independence and includes items such as wheelchairs,
26 scooters, canes, walkers, crutches, commode chairs, hospital beds and
27 patient lifts.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section

APP Joint Favorable Subst.

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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill establishes a separate, nonlapsing grant account to support health care facility purchases of durable medical equipment to be used by elderly persons or persons with disabilities, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state. The Department of Public Health has sufficient resources to administer the account.

OFA Bill Analysis

HB 5421

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

SUMMARY:

The bill creates the health care facility durable medical equipment account as a separate, nonlapsing account administered by the State Treasurer.

The account must contain: (1) relevant appropriations or funding otherwise made available by the state; (2) any money required by law to be deposited in the account; and (3) relevant gifts, grants, donations or bequests. Any investment earnings credited to the assets of the account must also be included in the assets of the account.

Under the bill, the Department of Public Health (DPH) must use the account's funds to provide grants to health care facilities for the purchase of durable medical equipment used by elderly persons or persons with disabilities. Qualifying durable medical equipment includes wheelchairs, scooters, canes, walkers, crutches, commode chairs, hospital beds, and patient lifts.

DPH may deduct and retain an amount equal to the costs incurred to award such grants, up to two percent of the account's balance annually.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 51 Nay 0 (04/01/2026)