



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5356

LCO No. 1292



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL
TRANSPORTATION.***

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*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, but in no event for a period of longer than
24 ninety days in the aggregate, shall be deemed to have met such
25 requirements. Prior to awarding a contract pursuant to this section, the
26 Commissioner of Social Services shall consider the effect of the contract
27 on the emergency ambulance primary service areas and volunteer
28 ambulance services affected by the contract. The commissioner may
29 limit the geographic areas to be served by a contractor and may limit the
30 amount of services to be performed by a contractor. The commissioner
31 may operate one or more pilot programs prior to state-wide operation
32 of a competitive bidding program for nonemergency transportation
33 services. By enrolling in the Medicaid program or participating in the
34 competitively bid contract for nonemergency transportation services,
35 providers of nonemergency transportation services agree to offer to
36 recipients of medical assistance all types or levels of transportation
37 services for which they are licensed or certified. Effective October 1,
38 1991, payment for such services shall be made only for services
39 provided to an eligible recipient who is actually transported. A contract
40 entered into pursuant to this section may include services provided by
41 another state agency. Notwithstanding any provision of the general
42 statutes, a contract entered into pursuant to this section shall establish
43 the rates to be paid for the transportation services provided under the
44 contract. The Commissioner of Social Services shall, at least annually,
45 (A) review such rates, (B) ensure such rates are adequate to provide a
46 pool of nonemergency medical transportation drivers to provide
47 Medicaid recipients access to such transportation services, and (C)
48 ensure such rates are included in each contract. A contract entered into
49 pursuant to this section may include services provided by another state

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

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

Statement of Purpose:

To improve access to nonemergency medical transportation for Medicaid recipients by reducing regulatory burdens on providers and reviewing reimbursement rates to ensure they are high enough to maintain an adequate pool of drivers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]