



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Substitute Bill No. 5356



**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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*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	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	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*