



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Substitute Bill No. 5481**



**AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING HOSPICE CARE AT A SHORT-TERM HOSPITAL SPECIAL HOSPICE OR A HOSPICE FACILITY.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The Commissioner of Social  
2 Services, within available appropriations, shall provide reimbursement  
3 under the state medical assistance program for room and board costs for  
4 Medicaid beneficiaries receiving care from a short-term hospital special  
5 hospice, licensed pursuant to section 19a-491 of the general statutes, or  
6 a hospice facility licensed pursuant to section 19a-122b of the general  
7 statutes. Not later than January 15, 2027, the commissioner shall file a  
8 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
9 statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
10 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets  
11 of state agencies, human services and public health on any savings  
12 realized by treatment of such beneficiaries at a short-term hospital  
13 special hospice or a hospice facility rather than an acute care hospital or  
14 skilled nursing facility that is not a short-term hospital special hospice.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
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***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

The title was changed, references to "short-term hospice specialty hospital" were changed to "short-term hospital special hospice", and "facility" was changed to "hospice facility" for statutory consistency and clarity.

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