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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5322**

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A WORKING GROUP REGARDING ENDOMETRIOSIS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a 20-member endometriosis working group within the Legislative Department to evaluate and make recommendations on endometriosis diagnosis, treatment, research, education, and public awareness in Connecticut.

Under the bill, the working group must annually report, starting by January 1, 2027, to the governor and the Human Services and Public Health committees on its evaluation and recommendations, including any legislation needed to implement them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **ENDOMETRIOSIS WORKING GROUP**

##### ***Evaluation***

The bill requires the working group to evaluate the following:

1. the prevalence and impact of endometriosis in Connecticut;
2. barriers to timely and accurate diagnosis;
3. access to evidence-based treatments, such as medical, surgical, and therapeutic interventions;
4. insurance coverage and reimbursement practices for treating the condition;
5. the impact of the condition in the workplace, including leave, accommodations, and employment protections;
6. gaps in public and provider education and training; and

7. opportunities to improve data collection, research, and patient outcomes.

### **Membership**

Under the bill, the working group's membership includes the (1) insurance and public health commissioners or their designees and (2) co-chairpersons of the state's endometriosis data and biorepository program (see BACKGROUND). It also includes the following 16 appointed members listed in the table below:

**Table: Endometriosis Working Group Appointed Members**

<b><i>Appointing Authority</i></b>	<b><i>Member Qualifications</i></b>
House speaker (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One House member</li> <li>• One Connecticut-licensed physician experienced in diagnosing and treating endometriosis</li> <li>• One representative of a federally qualified health center</li> <li>• One state resident diagnosed with endometriosis</li> </ul>
Senate president pro tempore (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Senate member</li> <li>• One physician member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology</li> <li>• One researcher affiliated with a Connecticut academic or research institution with expertise in endometriosis</li> <li>• One patient advocate with experience advocating on behalf of people with endometriosis</li> </ul>
House minority leader (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One House member</li> <li>• One pediatric or adolescent medicine physician currently practicing in the state</li> <li>• One expert in racial and health equity or representative of a community-based organization serving historically underserved populations</li> <li>• One representative of a state hospital association or a Connecticut hospital administrator</li> </ul>
Senate minority leader (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Senate member</li> <li>• One representative of a school-based health center</li> <li>• One representative of a therapeutic or drug manufacturer experienced in endometriosis-related treatments</li> <li>• One state resident diagnosed with endometriosis</li> </ul>

The bill staggers appointed members' terms (except for legislators) as determined by the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's (CWCSEO) executive director, with six initial

appointees serving a two-year term, and the other six serving a three-year term. After that, members serve two-year terms and may be reappointed.

The bill requires appointing authorities to make initial appointments within 30 days of the bill's passage and fill any vacancy within 30 days.

Under the bill, members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for their necessary expenses in performing their duties.

***Meetings and Leadership***

CWCSEO's executive director must schedule and hold the first meeting within 60 days after the bill's passage. The working group must appoint a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members at the first meeting.

Under the bill, the working group must meet at least quarterly and provide opportunities for public comment at the meetings.

The bill requires the CWCSEO administrative staff to serve in this capacity for the working group.

**BACKGROUND**

***Endometriosis Data and Biorepository Program***

In 2023, the legislature directed UConn Health and The Jackson Laboratory to create an endometriosis data and biorepository program to promote research on (1) early detection of endometriosis in adolescents and adults and (2) developing therapeutic strategies to improve clinical management of the condition. The program, EndoRISE, focuses on administering the endometriosis biorepository, public awareness, and clinical education.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/23/2026)