
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5481

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

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS), within available appropriations, to provide Medicaid coverage for room and board costs for beneficiaries receiving care at a licensed short-term hospital special hospice or licensed hospice facility.

Under the bill, DSS must report, by January 15, 2027, to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health committees on any cost savings resulting from treating Medicaid beneficiaries in these hospice facilities instead of acute care hospitals or nursing homes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Inpatient Hospice Facility Regulation

Connecticut has two sets of inpatient hospice regulations: one for facilities licensed prior to July 31, 2012, that provide a hospital level of care (“short-term hospital special hospice”) and a second category, with less stringent requirements, for inpatient facilities licensed after that date (“hospice facility”) (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 19a-495-5a et seq.). For the latter, these facilities operate based on Medicare’s minimum regulatory requirements for inpatient hospital facilities (42 C.F.R. § 418.110).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/19/2026)