
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5562

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO HUMAN SERVICES STATUTES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes unrelated changes in human services-related laws, as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Various, see below

§ 1 — POSTING AT MANAGED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

Requires managed residential communities to post DSS contact information to report suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment of an elderly person, or that an elderly person may need protective services

Current law requires managed residential communities to prominently post a resident's bill of rights, including contact information for the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The bill expands this required posting to include contact information for the Department of Social Services (DSS) to report suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment of an elderly person, or that an elderly person may need protective services.

A managed residential community is a for-profit or nonprofit facility consisting of private residential units that provide a managed group living environment with housing and services for people primarily age 55 and over (assisted living facilities). The term excludes state-funded congregate housing facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

§ 2 — REPORT ON SNAP BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION

Requires DSS to report to the Human Services Committee on staggering SNAP benefits one time rather than annually

Existing law requires DSS to distribute Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to cohorts of beneficiaries at multiple intervals during the month (implement a staggered distribution), starting March 1, 2026. Current law requires DSS to report on this to the Human Services Committee annually, starting by April 1, 2026. The bill makes this report a one-time requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 3 — DDS FORMER EMPLOYEE REGISTRY ACCESS

Broadens access to DDS' registry of former employees terminated or separated from employment due to substantiated abuse or neglect

Existing law requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to maintain a registry of certain former employees who were fired from or left their jobs due to substantiated abuse or neglect and makes the registry available to specified agencies, employers, and charitable organizations. The bill additionally requires DDS to make the registry available to employers of service providers for people who get services or funding from DSS' Medicaid waiver for autism spectrum disorder.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 4 — LGBTQ JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY NETWORK

Makes changes to the network's membership and sets requirements for its bylaws

Existing law establishes a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Justice and Opportunity Network to make recommendations to the state government on the delivery of access and opportunity services to LGBTQ people in the state.

The bill changes the network's membership by removing all the required members under current law and replacing them with members appointed jointly by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore. The bill requires the network's membership to reflect the diversity of the LGBTQ community. Under the bill, members include:

1. a health care provider, licensed in medicine and surgery or nursing, serving the LGBTQ community;
2. a mental health provider, licensed in medicine and surgery or

- psychology, serving the LGBTQ community;
3. a representative of an organization working to improve the health of people with HIV/AIDS;
 4. a licensed attorney representing an organization working to eliminate LGBTQ+ discrimination;
 5. an LGBTQ youth organization representative;
 6. an LGBTQ elderly organization representative;
 7. an LGBTQ veteran;
 8. an LGBTQ corporate employee affinity group representative;
 9. an LGBTQ educator;
 10. a representative of an organization that works with a resettlement community supporting refugees and other immigrants;
 11. an LGBTQ community center executive director;
 12. a representative of an organization working with the disability community;
 13. a representative of an affirming interfaith organization working to welcome and include diverse communities, including LGBTQ people;
 14. a parent or caregiver of an LGBTQ child;
 15. the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity executive director; and
 16. up to nine at-large representatives with an interest in furthering state policy specific to LGBTQ persons' interests and welfare.

The bill requires appointments to be made to the board by September 1, 2026. As under existing law, members serve at the will of the House

speaker and Senate president pro tempore, who set term limits for each member.

The bill also requires network members to (1) adopt bylaws to conduct network business and (2) annually elect officers, as bylaws may designate, from among the members. Bylaws may include:

1. alternate representatives of the network to attend and vote at any meeting in place of absent representatives;
2. an executive committee of the network and additional committees, including nonvoting advisory committees;
3. procedures to address member nonattendance, including participation standards, notice requirements, and potential consequences for repeated or unexcused absences; and
4. procedures for adopting a governance model.

EFFECTIVE July 1, 2026

§§ 5-7 — ORGANIZATION NAME CHANGE

Renames “LeadingAge Connecticut” as “LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island”

The bill renames “LeadingAge Connecticut” as “LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island” in laws on committees and councils that include the organization as member.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 8 — ELIMINATED REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Eliminates a requirement that DSS report at least annually to MAPOC on gender-affirming care coverage

Current law requires DSS to report at least annually to the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight (MAPOC) on gender-affirming care coverage in the HUSKY Health Program (which includes Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program). The bill eliminates this requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 9 — FEDERAL REGULATIONS CONCERNING NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Incorporates into state law by reference federal regulations on (1) giving antipsychotic pharmaceuticals to a nursing home resident and (2) a nursing home resident's informed consent to treatment

The bill incorporates the provisions of two federal regulations into state law by reference. The bill incorporates these regulations as adopted as of January 1, 2026, and requires that they apply in the same way and with the same force and effect as if the language of the federal regulations had been incorporated in full into the general statutes.

Specifically, the bill incorporates the provisions of 42 C.F.R. § 483.45(e) with respect to the provision of antipsychotic pharmaceuticals to a nursing home resident. These regulations set requirements for nursing home facilities when administering psychotropic drugs to residents. Among other things, they require facilities to ensure that residents who use psychotropic drugs receive gradual dose reductions and behavioral interventions, unless clinically contraindicated, to discontinue these drugs.

The bill incorporates the provisions of 42 C.F.R. § 483.10(c) with respect to a nursing home resident's informed consent to treatment. Among other things, these regulations give a resident the right to be informed of and participate in their treatment, including the right to (1) participate in developing and implementing a person-centered care plan and (2) request, refuse, or discontinue treatment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/19/2026)