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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 479**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL FUND APPLICATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to forward to the Human Services Committee any application for Rural Health Transformation Program (see BACKGROUND) grants or technical assistance funding at least 30 days before submitting it for federal approval. Under the bill, “technical assistance funding” means federal grants to implement system modifications to change eligibility for certain public assistance programs, such as Medicaid.

The bill authorizes the Human Services Committee to hold a public hearing on the application and vote to approve, deny, or modify it. If the committee does not vote on an application within 30 days after receiving it, it is deemed approved.

The bill also (1) prohibits DSS from submitting the application for federal approval if the committee votes to deny it and (2) requires DSS to modify the application before submitting it for federal approval if the committee votes to do so.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Rural Health Transformation Program***

Under this program, created under 2025 federal legislation (P.L. 119-21, § 71401), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is giving all states grants to implement measures intended to expand rural health care access and quality.

Connecticut is receiving a first-year grant of \$154 million under the program. DSS will serve as the lead agency under the grant funding,

collaborating with several other agencies to implement projects across four initiatives: population health outcomes, workforce, data and technology, and care transformation and stability.

***Related Bill***

sSB 93 (File 44), favorably reported by the Public Health Committee, allows the Department of Public Health (DPH), or its licensing boards or commissions, to take disciplinary action against a practitioner who fails to fulfill any obligation resulting from receiving DPH funding under the Rural Health Transformation Program.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16    Nay 7    (03/19/2026)