



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION**



**LEGISLATIVE  
AFFAIRS**

**JOHN G.  
ROWLAND  
GOVERNOR**

June 19, 2003

To: Interested Persons

From: Christine Pollio, DMR Legislative Liaison

Re: 2003 Legislative Session

The following bills passed during the 2003 regular session of the General Assembly and in some way impact upon DMR and/or DMR consumers. Copies of these bills in Public Act form are attached. (If you are reading this via email, I have included the link to each Public Act.) Also, I have attached a list of bills that we were tracking that did not pass as of the end of session on June 4, 2003. If you have questions on these or any other bills from the 2003 legislative session, please call me at (860) 418-6066.

**BILLS THAT PASSED:**

**Public Act 03-40 (SB 1152) AN ACT CONCERNING GYNECOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES.** To improve access to gynecological care for women with disabilities. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00040-R00SB-01152-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-46 (HB 5617) AN ACT CONCERNING AMBULANCE SERVICES.** To exempt ambulance services which are accepting the state-wide rate schedule from filing financial information with the Department of Public Health.  
<http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00046-R00HB-05617-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-51 (SB 941) AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE STATUTES REGARDING PERSONS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION.** To make certain changes to the statutes regarding guardianship of persons with mental retardation and to correct a cross-reference. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00051-R00SB-00941-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-58 (SB 918) AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR INPATIENT DENTAL CARE.** To amend provisions regarding mandatory health insurance coverage for general anesthesia, nursing and related hospital services in conjunction with complex dental procedures in order to provide coverage for persons of all ages, rather than only children under the age of four, and to provide that such complexity be determined by a licensed dentist or oral surgeon rather than by a primary care physician.  
<http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00058-R00SB-00918-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-88 (HB 6517) AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.** To establish that the executive director of the Office of Protection and Advocacy of Persons with Disabilities has the duty and power to fulfill federal protection and advocacy system requirements for program independence and authority. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00088-R00HB-06517-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-94 (SB 553) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CAMP HARKNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** To include a representative from the Association for Retarded Citizens of New London county on the Camp Harkness Advisory Committee. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00094-R00SB-00553-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-146 (SB971) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION CLIENT HEALTH AND SAFETY.** To strengthen administrative and oversight procedures in matters relating to the health and safety of persons with mental retardation. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00146-R00SB-00971-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-155 (SB 212) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELIVERY OF DENTAL SERVICES UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.** To enhance the delivery of dental services available under the Medicaid program by reducing administrative burdens placed on providers of such services. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00155-R00SB-00212-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-174 (SB 1093) AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.** Section 13 of the bill specifies that “the state-wide system shall include a system for required notification to any local or regional school board of education no later than January first of each year of any child who resides in the local or regional school district, participates in the state-wide program and will attain the age of three during the next fiscal year.” <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00174-R00SB-01093-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-203 (SB 946) AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS.** To provide the Commissioner of Mental Retardation and private sector service providers with the authority to require state criminal history records checks for applicants who will provide services to persons or families. In addition, the bill requires the department to prepare and report to the public health committee outlining various impacts of imposing a national criminal history check. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00203-R00SB-00946-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-217 (SB 967) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND.** To establish that the functions, powers, duties and obligations, of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind shall be within the Department of Social Services, and eliminate the designation that said Board is within the Department of Social Services for administrative purposes only. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00217-R00SB-00967-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-219 (HB 6420) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO THE FUNDING OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED.** To implement the recommendations of the legislative program review and investigations committee relative to educational services for children who are blind or visually impaired. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00219-R00HB-06420-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-267 (SB 901) AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF SUSPECTED ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION OR ABANDONMENT OF ELDERLY PERSONS OR PERSONS IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES.** To provide for the prompt reporting of suspected abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment of elderly persons or persons in long-term care facilities, and to prohibit retaliation against persons who report such abuse. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00267-R00SB-00901-PA.htm>

**Public Act 03-270 (SB 1099) AN ACT CONCERNING A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CHARITABLE HOUSING.** To provide a property tax exemption for certain facilities which temporarily house certain social service clients including (but not limited to) temporary housing owned by, or held in trust for, a federally tax-exempt, exclusively charitable organization used primarily as housing for persons with mental retardation. <http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/act/Pa/2003PA-00270-R00SB-01099-PA.htm>

## **BUDGET:**

There were two budgets passed by the legislature this session, but both were vetoed by the Governor: **Public Act 03-185** (Emergency Certification Bill No. 6721). <http://www.state.ct.us/governor/news/03veto1.htm> and **Public Act 03-279** (Emergency Certification Bill No. 6720) <http://www.state.ct.us/governor/bills/03BudgetVeto.pdf>. Due to the lack of an approved budget by the close of the regular legislative session, the Connecticut General Assembly will be convening in Special Session to approve a budget for fiscal years '04 and '05.

**HJR 190 AN ACT CONVENING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SPECIAL SESSION,** specifies that the call of the session to be convened not earlier than 12:01 am on June 16, 2003, and that the call of the session be solely for the purposes of considering and enacting the following legislation:

- (a) The state budget for the biennium beginning July 1, 2003, and revenue to balance the state budget;
- (b) Bills needed to implement the state budget for the biennium beginning July 1, 2003;
- (c) State bond authorizations and their underlying programs and projects;
- (d) Bills transferring funds to agencies with deficiencies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003; and
- (e) Bills implementing the recommendations of the Transportation Strategy Board, including the funding of such recommendations.

**BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS:** To check the bill history of bills that did not pass this session, or any other bills that you were interested in that you don't find in this report, log on to [www.cga.state.ct.us](http://www.cga.state.ct.us), type the bill number in the upper right hand box and click on "go." This will bring you to the bill history which shows you where the bill "died", (in committee, on the house or senate calendar, etc.) any substitute language, and any amendments (whether or not they were called). The following bills did NOT pass this session:

**SB 365** AN ACT CONCERNING GENETIC INFORMATION AND EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION. To make a technical change in statutory provisions prohibiting employment discrimination based on genetic information. (Died in Judiciary)

**SB 409** AN ACT CONCERNING A PLAN FOR AN ASSISTED LIVING PILOT PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS ON THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION'S WAITING LIST. The bill requires the commissioners of Mental Retardation and Social Services to prepare a plan to establish and operate a pilot program to provide residential assisted living to individuals on the DMR waiting list. Additionally, the bill requires the commissioner of the Department of Mental Retardation to designate unoccupied beds at Southbury Training School (STS) as community placement beds for individuals on the residential waiting list. (Died on the House Calendar)

**SB 561** AN ACT CONCERNING A FUNDING PLAN FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION WAITING LIST. To require the state to create a funding package, including bonding, to eliminate the Department of Mental Retardation waiting list. (Died in Public Health)

**SB 573** AN ACT CONCERNING ASSISTED LIVING FOR DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION CLIENTS. To reduce the current Department of Mental Retardation waiting list and provide significant cost savings when compared to currently operating department group homes. (Died in Public Health)

**SB 685** AN ACT CONCERNING RESTORATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES PREVIOUSLY AVAILABLE UNDER THE MEDICAID AND STATE ADMINISTERED GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. To restore the availability of certain medical services under the Medicaid and State Administered General Assistance programs which were eliminated by public act 02-7 of the May 9 special session. (Died in Appropriations)

**SB 861** AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON FUNDING COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDERS. To establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to study the funding of private community-based providers. (Died in Public Health)

**SB 902** AN ACT CONCERNING ABUSE AGAINST ELDERLY, BLIND, DISABLED AND MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS. To protect elderly, blind, disabled and mentally retarded persons from abuse. (Died in Judiciary)

**HB 909** AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON FUNDING PRIVATE COMMUNITY-BASED PROVIDERS. To establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to study the funding of private community-based providers. (Died in Legislative Management)

**SB 942** AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BRAIN INJURY PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACCOUNT. To provide a nonprofit organization concerned with the prevention and treatment of brain injuries with operating costs, funded by surcharges on fines for speeding and driving under the influence. (Died in the Senate, moved to the Foot of the Calendar)

**SB 945** AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #3 STATUTES. To make technical changes to update the statute. (Died in Public Health)

**HB 947** AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL RETARDATION RESIDENTIAL WAITING LIST. To meet the needs of persons with mental retardation who are on the DMR Residential Waiting List, and have critical placement needs. (Died in Public Health)

**SB 999** AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMISSION AND CARE OF PATIENTS IN NURSING HOMES. To prevent the admission of persons with primary psychiatric diagnosis into nursing home facilities that are unable to provide such persons with needed mental health care. (Senate passed, Died on House Calendar)

**HB 5019** AN ACT CONCERNING FULL PAYMENT TO PHYSICIANS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO DUALY ELIGIBLE PATIENTS. To exempt physicians from the requirement that the Department of Social Services limit reimbursement to medical providers for coinsurance and deductible payments for individuals eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare. (Died in Appropriations)

**HB 5388** AN ACT CONCERNING THE BIRTH-TO-THREE PROGRAM AND NOTIFICATION TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS REGARDING SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS. To assist school districts in planning their special education budgets. (Died in Education)

**HB 5491** AN ACT CONCERNING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN WITH PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS. To provide coverage for therapy for children with a pervasive developmental disorder. (Died in Insurance and Real Estate)

**HB 5504** AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NORTHWEST CORNER PROBATE DISTRICT AND A BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON THE PROBATE COURT SYSTEM. To establish a Blue Ribbon Commission on the Probate Court System to study the future of the probate court system and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding issues of probate court venue and jurisdiction. (House amended and passed, Died on Senate Calendar)

**HB 5926** AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES PROVIDED AT CAMP HARKNESS. To allow Camp Harkness to continue to offer services to disabled individuals on a year-round basis. (Died in Appropriations)

**HB 6429** AN ACT CONCERNING DISABILITY RIGHTS. To ensure the complete provision of civil rights to persons with disabilities. (Died in Legislative Management)

**HB 6610 AN ACT CONCERNING NEUROFEEDBACK THERAPY.** To establish a neurofeedback pilot program- which would evaluate the value, efficacy and cost of neurofeedback in the treatment of ADHD and other identifiable learning disabilities in children who are eligible for special education and related services. (Died in the Senate, moved to the Foot of the Calendar)

**HB 6116 AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO PRIVATE OWNERS OF COMMUNITY GROUP HOMES.** To provide a financial incentive to owners of certain state subsidized residential care facilities seeking to refinance an existing mortgage, provided the Commissioner of Social Services determines that such refinancing will result in state reimbursement savings over the term of the loan. (Died in Finance)

**HB 6636 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LONG-TERM CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL.** To implement the legislative recommendations of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council (Sec. 5. would have expanded the number of Katie Beckett Model Home and Community Waiver slots from one hundred twenty-five to two hundred). (Died in Appropriations)

**HB 6656 AN ACT CONCERNING CONTRACTS BETWEEN STATE AGENCIES AND NONPROFIT HUMAN SERVICE PROVIDERS.** To regulate contracts between nonprofit service providers and the state. (Died in Appropriations)