



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

Legislative Update # 5

January 28, 2021

There is a lot of session-related activity going on as the hearing process kicks off. Early next week two committees will hear testimony on bills that may be of interest to the behavioral health community. Hearings will be conducted virtually with committee members meeting via Zoom. Hearings provide an opportunity to give three minutes of testimony and answer committee member questions.

The Public Health Committee will hold a virtual public hearing on **Monday, February 1, 2021**. The public hearing can be viewed via [YouTube Live](#) and it may also be televised on [CT-N.com](#). Individuals who wish to testify via Zoom must register using the [On-line Testimony Registration Form](#) by January 31, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. Speaker order will be listed in a randomized order and posted on the [Public Health Committee website](#) on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. under Public Hearing Testimony. If you do not have internet access, you may testify by phone by calling the Phone Registrant Line at (860) 240-0560 to leave your contact information. Testimony with the bill number and your name should be emailed to phtestimony@cga.ct.gov. Bills that may be of interest on the hearing schedule include:

S.B. No. 285 (RAISED) AN ACT ALLOWING MEDICAL ASSISTANTS TO ADMINISTER VACCINES.

S.B. No. 326 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF FLAVORED CIGARETTES, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS.

The General Law Committee will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 2, 2021**. The hearing process will be as described above. Individuals who wish to testify at this hearing via Zoom must register using the [On-line Testimony Registration Form](#) by February 1, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. Speaker order will be listed in a randomized order and posted on the [General Law Committee](#) website under Public Hearing Testimony. If you do not have internet access, you may provide testimony via telephone. To register to testify by phone, call the Phone Registrant Line at (860) 240-0369 to leave your contact information. Testimony noting the bill number and your name should be emailed to gltestimony@cga.ct.gov. Of interest to the behavioral health community is the following bill:

H.B. No. 5313 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS STATUTES.

Below are few proposed bills we are tracking that may also be of interest to the behavioral health community:

Proposed [HB-5493](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

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Proposed [HB-5499](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF A SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING CURRICULUM FOR CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS.

Proposed [HB-5500](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATE-WIDE PLAN FOR RESPONDING TO LARGE SCALE SCHOOL CRISIS EVENTS.

Proposed [HB-5510](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF LGBTQ+ STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

Proposed [HB-5546](#) AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES.

Proposed [HB-5549](#) AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TELEHEALTH.

Proposed [HB-5550](#) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE CONCERNING PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS.

Proposed [HB-5563](#) AN ACT ALLOWING MUNICIPALITIES TO ASSESS FEES ON CERTAIN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL SERVICES.

Proposed [HB-5571](#) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH.

Proposed [HB-5573](#) AN ACT REQUIRING CONNECTICUT TO JOIN THE PSYCHOLOGY INTERJURISDICTIONAL COMPACT.

Proposed [HB-5574](#) AN ACT CONCERNING CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES IN CARE AND TREATMENT PLANS.

Proposed [HB-5582](#) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF FLAVORED CIGARETTES, TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS.

Proposed [HB-5583](#) AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY INTERVENTION BY A POLICE OFFICER WHEN A PERSON SUFFERS AN OVERDOSE.

Proposed [HB-5586](#) AN ACT REQUIRING EXPANSION OF THE CRISIS INITIATIVE PILOT PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Proposed [HB-5596](#) AN ACT CONCERNING TELEHEALTH.

Proposed [HB-5597](#) AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOIDS.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about any of the information contained in the legislative updates. I can be reached at (860) 418-6839 or mary.mason@ct.gov. While email is the best way to reach me, you can also text or call my cell phone at (860) 985-2120 since I am away from my desk phone.