



**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 # 8**

**February 9, 2021**

Tomorrow, February 10, 2021, Governor Lamont will make public his proposed budget for the next two state fiscal years. I will work to provide information on how the budget impacts the behavioral health community as soon as we have unpacked it.

The Appropriations Committee will hold the DMHAS budget presentation on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 2:30 p.m., via Zoom. The hearing for the public to testify on the DMHAS budget will be on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Individuals wishing to sign up to testify will need to access the Bulletin notices for the public hearing which will include links to an online registration form for the public hearing. The state agency presentations and hearing can be viewed via YouTube Live and the public hearing may recorded and broadcast live on CT-N.com. Individuals can submit public testimony on the DMHAS budget by sending it via email to [phtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:phtestimony@cga.ct.gov).

Several bills to increase funding to non-profit providers, including those serving the behavioral health community, have been proposed. These bills are proposed [HB-5743](#), [HB-5744](#), [HB-5747](#), [HB-5751](#), [HB-5866](#), and [HB-6357](#)

There have been several bills proposed lately regarding the legalization of cannabis. To learn more about the bills please review the hyperlinks to the bills. The bills are proposed bill [HB-5853](#) and [HB-5862](#).

Below are few other bills that may be of interest:

Proposed [HB-5816](#) AN ACT REQUIRING RECYCLING WITHIN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

Proposed [HB-5905](#) AN ACT FACILITATING THE SUPPLY OF FOOD AVAILABLE AT SMALLER, PRIVATE FOOD PANTRIES.

Proposed [HB-5935](#) AN ACT CONCERNING CLEAN SLATE AND AUTOMATIC ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS.

Proposed [HB-5992](#) AN ACT REQUIRING TRANSPORTATION TO A TREATMENT FACILITY WHICH PROVIDES MEDICAL TRIAGE OR TO A HOSPITAL AFTER ADMINISTRATION OF AN OPIOID ANTAGONIST.

Proposed [HB-6006](#) AN ACT CODIFYING THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS REGARDING TELEHEALTH.

Proposed [HB-6007](#) AN ACT PROVIDING STATUTORY RECOGNITION TO AND FUNDING FOR THE CONNECTICUT SUICIDE ADVISORY BOARD.

Proposed [HB-6009](#) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND THE SALE OF ALL TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN PHARMACIES.

Proposed [HB-6017](#) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ELEVATED SUICIDE RATE AMONGST TEEN GIRLS.

Proposed [HB-6019](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF THE EVICTION PROCESS TO INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER REHABILITATION FACILITIES.

Proposed [HB-6026](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF STUDENTS AND CHILDREN.

Proposed [HB-6039](#) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.

Raised [HB-6111](#) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM.

Proposed [HB-6117](#) AN ACT CONCERNING A TAX CREDIT FOR BUSINESSES THAT HIRE INDIVIDUALS IN RECOVERY FROM SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.

Proposed [HB-6121](#) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Proposed [HB-6125](#) AN ACT INCREASING AWARENESS OF AVAILABLE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Proposed [HB-6145](#) AN ACT INCREASING AWARENESS TO MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES.

Proposed [HB-6204](#) AN ACT REQUIRING AN ANNUAL STATE AUDIT CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF STATE PROGRAMS.

Proposed [HB-6211](#) AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER AND RACIAL DIVERSITY ON STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

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](mailto: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.