

DDS Legislative Update – April 17, 2013

DDS Bill Passes in the House

H.B. No. 6388 - An Act Concerning Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, one of DDS's bills this legislative session, was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives on Wednesday, April 10, 2013. **The bill now goes on to the Senate for a vote.** The bill changes the term "Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR)" to "Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID)" in line with changes in federal law. The bill also changes the last remaining references to the term "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability" in the Connecticut General Statutes as well as making the various statutory sections "person first."

Judiciary Committee Votes on An Act Concerning the Sexual Assault of Persons Whose Ability to Communicate Lack of Consent is Substantially Impaired

H.B. No. 6641 - An Act Concerning the Sexual Assault of Persons Whose Ability to Communicate Lack of Consent is Substantially Impaired was voted out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. H.B. No. 6641 changes the definition of "physically helpless" to include protections for both those persons who are unable to communicate unwillingness to sexual contact and those persons who cannot physically resist unwanted sexual contact. This change should enhance the court's ability to prosecute those predators who would take advantage of the most vulnerable citizens of Connecticut.

Advocates for the bill have been working over several years to craft language that addresses exploitation of individuals with disabilities, and the lack of capacity to consent, while maintaining the right of individuals with intellectual disability and other disabilities to have relationships. All the testimony submitted to the Judiciary Committee on H.B. No. 6641 can be found at:

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CommDocTmyBill.asp?comm_code=JUD&bill=HB-06641&doc_year=2013

DDS Legislative List of Bills Being Tracked as of April 15, 2013

Below is a link to the list of bills DDS is tracking and assessing as of April 15, 2013 that may be of interest to or may have a potential impact on DDS consumers, families and guardians, DDS employees and DDS providers.

[DDS Legislative List of Bills Being Tracked – April 15, 2013](#)

[Link to all DDS Testimony](#)

[DDS Testimony for the Connecticut General Assembly](#)

[Link to the DDS Legislative Affairs Webpage](#)

<http://www.ct.gov/dds/cwp/view.asp?a=2039&q=394202>