

DDS Legislative Update – January 31, 2013

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on the Governor’s Proposed Budget

The Governor’s proposed budget for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 6, 2013. The General Assembly’s Appropriations Committee will hold public hearings on the various parts of the proposed budget the weeks of February 11th and February 18th. **The public hearing for the Health and Hospitals section of the budget which includes the DDS budget is tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2013.** When the date and time of the public hearing are confirmed, we will post that information.

For those of you who are considering testifying on either the Health and Hospitals or the Human Services portions of the budget you may want to know that **the Appropriations Committee has a “special needs” sign-up** for both of these public hearings. This sign-up is to accommodate individuals with a disability so that they can give their testimony in the earlier part of the public hearings. **This year, the Appropriations Committee is also reserving a room for those individuals who need a quiet space while waiting to testify.** More details about the Appropriations Committee public hearing process will be forthcoming.

Bills of Interest

There are dozens of bills in the 2013 legislative session that may impact upon, or might be of interest to, DDS consumers and their families or guardians, DDS employees or DDS providers. The Legislative Affairs staff is compiling a comprehensive list of these bills and we will be posting the list regularly with information on public hearings and where these bills are in the legislative process.

DDS Legislative Proposals for 2013

The Public Health Committee has raised the two bills that make up the DDS legislative package for 2013. The two bills **An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Department of Developmental Services Statutes**, which will update the statutes of various councils that DDS oversees and **An Act Concerning Intermediate Care Facilities For Individuals With Intellectual Disabilities**, which will change the term “Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR)” to the new federal term “Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID)” and also will remove most remaining references in Connecticut statutes to the term “mental retardation” are being drafted by the Public Health Committee’s attorney. When these bills have been given bill numbers, they will be scheduled for a public hearing. We will let you know when that hearing is scheduled.

Links to the General Assembly and Legislative Committees

[Connecticut General Assembly](#)

[Appropriations Committee](#)

[Public Health Committee](#)

[Human Services Committee](#)

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

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