



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

Kathryn du Pree
Deputy Commissioner

July 10, 2008

To: Interested Persons

From: Christine Pollio and Rod O'Connor

Re: 2008 DDS Legislative Session Summary

The bills contained in this document from the 2008 session of the General Assembly in some way impact upon, or might be of interest to, DDS consumers and their families or guardians, DDS employees or DDS providers. If you are reading this online or via email, we have included the link to each Public Act for bills that passed. [Bracketed] language indicates a deletion. Underlined language or the word "NEW" indicates new language. We have also attached a list of bills that we were tracking that did NOT pass as of the end of session on May 7, 2008. We have provided a link to the bill history page for all bills in this summary, regardless of if they passed or not. These lists are by no means exhaustive. Please keep in mind that many multiple bills on the same or similar issues that did not pass during the session (died) may have been incorporated into a compromise bill (please see the link at the end of the summary for this information). Summaries in this document include information from the Office of Legislative Research and the Office of Fiscal Analysis. If you have questions on these or any other bills from the 2008 legislative session, please contact us at Christine.pollio@ct.gov or Rod.Oconnor@ct.gov. Enjoy!

BILLS PROPOSED BY (OR AT THE REQUEST OF) THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES:

S.B. No. 242 (Public Act 08-7) An Act Concerning Changes To Statutes Affecting The Department Of Developmental Services. This act makes various technical changes to statutes affecting the Department of Developmental Services. It changes the name of the Council on Mental Retardation to the Council on Developmental Services, changes references to "state mental retardation regions" to "state developmental services regions", changes references of "mentally retarded persons" to "persons with mental retardation", updates the reference to the Southeastern Connecticut Association for Developmental Disabilities as a member of the Camp Harkness Advisory Board, and increases the number of self-advocates employed by DDS by one to a total of eleven. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00007-R00SB-00242-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 663 An Act Providing State-Funded Medical Coverage To Children In The Care Of The Department Of Children And Families And The Department Of Developmental Services. The underlying bill would have expanded eligibility for state-funded medical assistance to include children under the care and supervision of the Department of Developmental Services who are ineligible for Medicaid and removed the institutional status of a child from being a factor in determining a child's eligibility for medical assistance. As amended, the bill would have authorized DDS to check the DCF's child abuse and neglect registry for employment purposes and it also would have required DCF to give DDS a written summary of any child abuse and neglect investigation it conducted, without the subject's consent, for the purpose of determining eligibility, enrollment, and service planning for DDS voluntary services program clients. The Senate passed S.B. 663 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The bill died in the House.

H.B. No. 5131 An Act Amending The Statutes Concerning The Department Of Children And Families. Sec. 2 (g)(17) was part of DDS's 2008 legislative initiatives. This section would have allowed DCF to disclose client records to the Department of Developmental Services for the purposes of eligibility and enrollment in the voluntary services program operated by DDS. The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.

H.B. No. 5541 An Act Concerning Sexual Assault Of Persons Placed Or Treated Under The Direction Of The Commissioner Of Developmental Services would have expanded the definitions of sexual assault in the second degree and sexual assault in the fourth degree to include assaults committed on persons placed or treated under the direction of the Commissioner of Developmental Services by any person who has supervisory or disciplinary authority over a DDS' consumer. H.B. 5541 died in the Judiciary Committee.

H.B. No. 5630 (Public Act 08-42) An Act Promoting Consistency Among Peer Review Proceedings. This bill applies confidentiality and immunity provisions of the medical peer review and public health record laws to the operations of the Department of Developmental Services' mortality review teams and the Independent Mortality Review Board and makes their operations consistent with other peer review processes found in the general statutes, specifically, provisions that apply to Public Health Department (DPH) records. By law, all information, interview records, written reports, statements, notes, memoranda, or other data (including personal data) the DPH or DPH-licensed facilities obtain in connection with morbidity and mortality studies is confidential. It can be used only for medical or scientific research and can be disclosed only for purposes of the project to which it relates. DPH can disclose personal data for medical or scientific research to other government agencies and private research organizations as long as they do not further disclose it. The information is not admissible as evidence in any judicial or administrative action (CGS § 19a-25). <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00042-R00HB-05630-PA.htm>

BILLS THAT WERE SIGNED INTO LAW:

S.B. No. 33 (Public Act 08-1) An Act Implementing The Governor's Recommendations With Respect To Social Services Pharmacy Programs. The act requires drug manufacturers to provide rebates for (1) nonformulary drugs that the Department of Social Services (DSS) covers for Medicare Part D participants who are also eligible for Medicaid and (2) drugs dispensed under the HUSKY and State-Administered General Assistance (SAGA) medical assistance programs. The act is effective upon passage. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00001-R00SB-00033-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 65 (Public Act 08-4) An Act Allowing Blind Or Physically Disabled State Or Quasi-Public Employees To Use Accumulated Sick Leave For Guide Dog Training. This act allows state or quasi-public employees who are blind or physically disabled to use up to 15 days of accumulated paid sick leave time to take guide dog or assistance dog training. To qualify an employee must (1) have been employed for at least 12 consecutive months and (2) participate in training that prepares the employee to handle a guide or assistance dog for his or her own use. A guide dog or assistance dog organization that is a member of the professional association of guide dog or assistance dog schools must conduct the training. The agency can require up to seven days advance notice of an employee's intention to use the leave and may require the employee to provide reasonable documentation that the leave falls under the act's permitted purpose. The act is effective as of October 1, 2008.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00004-R00SB-00065-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 204 (Public Act 08-120) An Act Concerning Access to Certain Public Records. This act makes revisions to the Freedom of Information Act with regards to the disclosure of residential addresses of direct care employees of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00120-R00SB-00204-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 284 (Public Act 08-46) An Act Concerning Criminal History Background Checks For Persons Providing Services To Clients Of The Department Of Mental Health And Addiction Services. The act requires all applicants for jobs or volunteer positions in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to submit to (1) a state criminal background check and (2) checks of the Children and Families *and Developmental Services* departments' abuse and neglect registries. It permits DMHAS to require any applicant who previously lived in another state to submit to a national criminal background check. It bars DMHAS from hiring an employee or placing a volunteer until the check results are available. The act conforms statute to the department's current practice. The act is effective upon passage. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00046-R00SB-00284-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 298 (Public Act 08-150) An Act Concerning The Department Of Motor Vehicles. The original bill was intended to prevent personal injury and property damage caused by snow and ice blowing or sliding from the roofs of trucks. However, the bill as amended became the omnibus Transportation Committee bill with provisions affecting the Department of Motor Vehicles. The bill as amended deleted all references to the removal of snow and ice from motor vehicles. The amended bill's provisions that may impact the Department of Developmental Services, DDS consumers, DDS employees or DDS providers are as follows: Public Act 08-150, effective October 1, 2008, authorizes the DMV commissioner to extend the expiration date or period of validity of any registration, license, permit, certificate, or other form or credential he issues (1) in the event of an emergency declared under applicable state law or (2) if the DMV office is closed or unable to perform transactions with the public in an effective or secure manner. It requires the governor's approval for the commissioner to exercise this authority. If he exercises this authority, the commissioner must take any actions that are necessary or appropriate to inform the public and law enforcement agencies of the extensions; The act requires issuance of a second special plate beginning January 1, 2009, with a design determined by the Connecticut Nurses Foundation, with DMV approval. The purpose of the special nursing plate is to express support for the nursing profession, raise awareness of the nursing shortage, and provide scholarships for nursing education and training; The act applies the same penalty for failing to grant the right-of-way to a person who is blind as applies for failing to yield to a pedestrian using a crosswalk; The act prohibits a television screen or similar video display in a motor vehicle where it can be seen by the driver except if it is for instrumentation

purposes or is a closed video monitor used for backing with the monitor disabled within 15 seconds of the vehicle being shifted out of reverse. The act changes this latter exemption and, instead, exempts any: 1. closed video monitor used for backing or parking, 2. video display unit or device that can only be operated when the vehicle is stationary and is automatically disabled whenever the vehicle's wheels are in motion, or 3. video display unit or device that is used to enhance or supplement the driver's view of the area immediately surrounding the vehicle to assist in low-speed maneuvering around obstructions at not more than 10 miles per hour; Also, the act makes it clear that someone who holds a commercial driver's license can also operate any other vehicles that can be operated with a lower classification non commercial license; Public Act 08-150 incorporates federal standards regarding drug testing procedures for tests required of drivers of school buses and student transportation vehicles (STV) to make it clear what standards must be applied to STV drivers since many of them do not hold commercial driver's licenses; and The act increases the term of DMV-issued non-driver photo identification cards from four to six years, proportionately increases the fee from \$15 to \$22.50, and permits the commissioner to waive the fee for any applicant who is a resident of a homeless shelter or other facility, and requires the commissioner to adopt implementing regulations effective January 1, 2009. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00150-R00SB-00298-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 344 (Public Act 08-161) An Act Concerning The Food Stamp Employment And Training Program And The Recommendations Of The Child Poverty And Prevention Council. This act, effective October 1, 2008, requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to administer a food stamp employment and training (FSE&T) program authorized under the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, which the department currently administers on a voluntary basis. It must provide for the receipt of federal matching funds under federal FSE&T rules and seek to maximize the use of the federal program's matching funds provision to the fullest extent legally permitted. Public Act 08-161 specifies how federal matching funds must be used and distributed and authorizes DSS to select providers who qualify for federal reimbursement, including FSE&T community collaboratives, to participate in the program. By law, entities that qualify for federal matching funds include state agencies, local governments, nonprofit entities, institutions of higher education, and other FSE&T providers that offer qualifying employment and training activities. The act requires DSS to file annual reports for five years, beginning January 15, 2009, with the Human Services and Appropriations committees and the Child Poverty and Prevention Council on the amount of federal matching funds the program generated and amounts (1) used for DSS' operating and administrative expenses, (2) distributed to providers, and (3) distributed to community collaboratives. It must also include how recipients used the funds, including populations served, and describe programs' outcomes using a results-based accountability framework. Finally it authorizes DSS, in conjunction with Child Poverty and Prevention Council agency members, to work with local governments, institutions of higher education, community action agencies, and other entities to continue and expand efforts, within available appropriations, to enroll eligible individuals in the food stamp program and to enroll eligible food stamp participants in education, employment, and training activities. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00161-R00SB-00344-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 397 (Public Act 08-78) An Act Concerning the State Building Works of Art Account. This act establishes a "maintenance account" subaccount in the General Fund's state building works of art account. By law, the State Bond Commission must allocate at least 1% of bond proceeds for the construction, reconstruction, and remodeling of state buildings for art works. The act requires the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCCT) to determine the percentage of the 1% allocation, up to 10%, to credit to the maintenance account. The account's funds must be used solely to conserve, repair, and clean art works commissioned

and purchased for state buildings using the proceeds of the 1% allocation.
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00078-R00SB-00397-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 414 (Public Act 08-88) An Act Concerning The State-Funded Home Care Program For The Disabled increases the number of slots available under the Connecticut home care program for the disabled from fifty to seventy; increases the asset limits to match the asset limits of the Connecticut home care program for the elderly; and provides increased funds for the personal care assistance program for the disabled. The act, effective July 1, 2008, increases the asset limits in the state-funded, pilot home and community-based services program for adults under age 65 who have disabilities. Thus, under the act, the increases for 2008 are: (1) \$20,880 to \$31,320 for a single person and (2) \$31,320 to \$41,760 for a married couple.
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00088-R00SB-00414-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 418 (Public Act 08-133) An Act Concerning The Hiring Of Support Staff For Teachers Of The Blind And Visually Impaired permits the Board of Education and Services for the Blind to expend up to five per cent of funds appropriated to the educational aid for blind and visually handicapped children account to hire support staff who are needed to assist teachers of the blind and visually impaired and other education professionals. The act takes effect July 1, 2008. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00133-R00SB-00418-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 462 (Public Act 08-31) An Act Concerning License Renewal Fees For Physicians. This act allows doctors who annually provide at least 100 hours of free service in a mobile health clinic to renew their licenses without charge if they do not practice medicine anywhere else. Doctors who do this in a public health facility (e.g., hospital, community health center, nursing home, mental health facility, group home, school, or public preschool) and do not practice medicine anywhere else were already exempt from the \$450 license renewal fee. The effective date of this act is October 1, 2008. The bill became law although it was not signed by the Governor. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00031-R00SB-00462-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 471 (Public Act 08-109) An Act Extending The State Physician Profile To Certain Other Health Care Providers. By law, the Department of Public Health (DPH), after consulting with the Connecticut Medical Examining Board and the Connecticut State Medical Society, must collect certain information to create an individual public profile on each physician licensed to practice medicine in Connecticut. This act, within available appropriations, extends this requirement to dentists, chiropractors, optometrists, podiatrists, naturopaths, dental hygienists, advanced practice registered nurses, and physical therapists. Consistent with existing law for physicians, the act requires DPH to consult with the appropriate state board. It also makes other conforming changes, including authorizing the appropriate board, commission, or department to revoke or suspend the health care provider's license for failing to provide DPH with the information the act requires. The act is effective as of January 1, 2010.
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00109-R00SB-00471-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 507 (Public Act 08-48) An Act Concerning The Admissibility Of Reports Prepared By Physician Assistants And Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. This act, effective October 1, 2008, applies the same rules in civil cases concerning the admissibility of records, reports, and acts of physician assistants (PA) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) as currently apply to physicians, dentists, chiropractors, naturopaths, physical therapists, podiatrists, psychologists, emergency medical technicians, and optometrists. Specifically, the act allows signed reports and acts of PA's and APRN's to be introduced in any civil action as business entry evidence without calling the professional to testify. The act establishes a presumption that the

signature on the report is the PA's or APRN's and that it was made in the ordinary course of business. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00048-R00SB-00507-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 558 (Public Act 08-158) An Act Concerning The Availability Of Hospice Services Under The Medicaid Program. The act amends the Medicaid state plan to include hospice services as a covered service under the Medicaid program beginning January 1, 2009. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00158-R00SB-00558-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 559 (Public Act 08-91) An Act Concerning A Pilot Program For Small House Nursing Homes And Additional Exceptions To The Nursing Home Bed Moratorium establishes a pilot program to provide grants-in-aid for the development of small house nursing homes in the state. This act, effective July 1, 2008, directs the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to establish a pilot program, within existing appropriations, to help develop up to 10 small house nursing homes in the state. The program's goals are to improve the quality of life for nursing home residents and provide nursing home care in home-like, rather than institutional, settings. The act establishes requirements for pilot program guidelines and eligibility. It requires a small house nursing home participating in the pilot to comply with certificate of need (CON) requirements and processes. It also amends the current moratorium on additional nursing home beds. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00091-R00SB-00559-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 561 (Public Act 08-180) An Act Concerning The Money Follows The Person Project expands the Money Follows the Person demonstration project and establish a long-term care trust fund to provide funds to finance long-term care. The act increases, from 700 to 5,000, the number of individuals who can be served under the state's plan for participating in the federal Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration program. MFP is a five-year program that permits states to move individuals out of nursing homes or other institutional settings and into less-restrictive, community-based settings and not jeopardize federal funding. The act requires, instead of allows, the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to submit an application to the federal government. DSS has developed a protocol for the demonstration, which needs federal approval before it can be implemented. The act also requires the DSS commissioner to develop a plan to establish and administer a similar home- and community-based services (HCBS) project for adults who may not meet the MFP institutionalization requirement. And it establishes a separate, non-lapsing General Fund account to hold the enhanced federal matching funds the state receives for MFP. It specifies the uses of funds in the account and requires a report on expenditures from it. The act is effective July 1, 2008; except for the changes in the MFP demonstrations are effective upon passage. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00180-R00SB-00561-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 671 (Public Act 08-51) An Act Concerning Persistent Dangerous Felony Offenders And Providing Additional Resources To The Criminal Justice System. The original bill "An Act Concerning Identity Theft" required government entities to make certain disclosures when requesting Social Security numbers; required people, businesses, and government entities that lose or cause the unauthorized disclosure of a person's Social Security number to notify him or her and pay for identity theft monitoring protection if requested; and permitted anyone harmed by an unauthorized disclosure to bring a civil action for damages. The bill as amended concerns persistent, dangerous felony offenders and would have no direct impact on DDS, DDS providers or DDS consumers. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00051-R00SB-00671-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 677 (Public Act 08-159) An Act Concerning Third-Party Nonprofit Community Access Providers And Community Antenna Television Companies.

The original bill “An Act Concerning The Use Of State Mobile Computing And Storage Devices” would have banned the storage of confidential or restricted state data on a mobile device, but created an exception to the ban with certain restrictions. (The ban would not have applied to the legislative or judicial branches.) The bill would have also (1) established requirements for configuring mobile devices; (2) prohibited those who use state-owned mobile devices from leaving them unattended when in a public setting or traveling, among other things; (3) required agencies to establish procedures for lost or stolen mobile devices, and report any such incident to DOIT; and (4) required agencies to implement a training program on the security policy and obtain acknowledgement from employees, consultants, and contractors that they would abide by the policy. The bill as amended deals with third-party nonprofit community access providers and community antenna television companies and would have no impact on the department, DDS providers or DDS consumers. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00159-R00SB-00677-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 679 (Public Act 08-154) An Act Concerning The Payment Of Certain Costs From Bond Funds And The Creation Of A Reciprocal Preference Statute

clarifies the role of the Department of Public Works in monitoring the state facility plan. When the lowest responsible qualified bidder on a state contract is an out-of-state business that receives a preference in its home state, this act requires the state contracting agency awarding the contract to increase the bid by an amount equal to the preference. Beginning January 1, 2009, it requires the State Contracting Standards Board to publish an annual list of states that give preference to in-state bidders, including the percentage amount. The act requires that the list be made available to state contracting agencies and allows them to rely on it when determining the lowest responsible qualified bidder. By law, the Department of Public Works (DPW) commissioner monitors agency requests for leased space and facility projects during the interim between state facility plans. She advises the governor and Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary when the square footage requested or project cost exceeds, by at least 10%, the square footage of, or the cost to implement, the state facility plan. Under prior law, the OPM secretary, State Properties Review Board, State Bond Commission, and governor had to approve the requests before the projects continued. The act requires their approval only when project costs will be paid with bond funds. This act became effective upon passage, except the provision on preference in contracting that is effective October 1, 2009.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00154-R00SB-00679-PA.htm>

S.B. No. 681 (Public Act 08-171) An Act Establishing A Commission On Health Equity.

This act, effective upon passage, establishes a 32-member Commission on Health Equity within the Office of the Health Care Advocate for administrative purposes. The commission must work to (1) eliminate disparities in health status based on race, ethnicity, and linguistic ability and (2) improve the quality of health for all state residents. The commission may (1) employ necessary staff within available appropriations and in compliance with the State Personnel Act; (2) use any funds available from federal, state, or other sources; and (3) enter contracts to carry out its duties. The act repeals the Advisory Commission on Multicultural Health. The commission must: 1. review and comment on any proposed state legislation and regulations that would affect the health of the state's populations experiencing racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic disparities in health status; 2. advise and provide information to the governor and legislature on the state policies concerning the health of these populations; 3. work as a liaison between these populations and state agencies to eliminate health disparities; 4. evaluate the impact of policies, procedures, activities, and resource allocations on eliminating these health disparities; 5. review and comment on the Department of Public Health's (DPH) health disparities performance

measures; 6. (a) explore successful programs in other sectors and states and (b) pilot and provide grants for new creative programs that may diminish or contribute to the elimination of health disparities in this state and culturally appropriate health education demonstration projects that the commission funds with public and private funds; and 7. submit to the governor and legislature an annual report on both a retrospective and prospective view of health disparities and the state's efforts to ameliorate those among the state's populations experiencing racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic disparities in health status. DDS is one of the agencies represented on the commission. The Commission is required to determine if its duties are duplicated by any other state agency, office, bureau, or commission and include information on the duplication in a report to the governor and legislature by June 1, 2010. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00171-R00SB-00681-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5025 (Public Act 08-122) An Act Amending An Act Concerning Child Product Safety. This act amends PA 08-106 to (1) require the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to implement that act's requirements within available appropriations; (2) require DCP to fulfill an existing statutory duty to tag misbranded hazardous substances only within available appropriations; (3) exempt certain drugs from the recall provision; and (4) revise a list of toxic substances that must be compiled by the commissioners of consumer protection, environmental protection, and public health. PA 08-106 requires the DCP commissioner, in consultation with the commissioners of DPH and DEP, to compile a list of toxic substances and the recommended maximum amount that may be present in children's products. PA 08-122, in addition to requiring that the list be compiled within available appropriations, instead requires the list to be of toxic substances that potentially should not exist in children's products. PA 08-122 requires DCP to implement the following provisions of PA 08-106 within available appropriations: 1. adopt regulations phasing in limits for lead in children's products that are electronic products and requiring warning labels on certain consumer products; 2. compile a list of toys and other articles that are intended for use by children and that are banned hazardous substances and post it on the agency's website; 3. compile a list of other toxic substances in consultation with the commissioners of the departments of Public Health (DPH) and Environmental Protection (DEP); 4. compile, and from time to time amend, a list of safer alternatives to the above substances; and 5. develop a certificate of disposition for retailers and wholesalers to account for any children's product that is subject to a recall or voluntary corrective action.
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00122-R00HB-05025-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5125 (Public Act 08-17) An Act Concerning A Prohibition Relating To Homemaker-Companion Services clarifies that no person shall provide homemaker or companion services without having a current homemaker-companion agency certificate of registration. This act, effective October 1, 2008, specifies that homemaker-companion agencies can neither offer nor provide homemaker or companion services without a current Department of Consumer Protection certificate of registration. Prior law prohibited agencies only from "offering to provide" services without a certificate. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00017-R00HB-05125-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5318 (Public Act 08-18) An Act Concerning Technical Revisions To The Freedom Of Information Act. This act makes a technical change to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), moving the requirement that public agencies make, keep, and maintain records of their meetings from one section of FOIA to another and is effective upon passage.
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00018-R00HB-05318-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5323 (Public Act 08-19) An Act Concerning The Department Of Information Technology. This act, effective upon passage, makes various unrelated changes affecting the

Department of Information Technology (DOIT) and information technology (IT) services. Specifically, it authorizes the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner to purchase IT services, as well as other services, through preexisting federal contracts. The law already authorizes the commissioner to purchase products, including IT products, from such contractors. The act transfers, from the DAS commissioner to DOIT's chief information officer, the responsibility for billing state agency telecommunications services, thus codifying current practice. It requires the chief information officer to include as a goal in the state's annual information and telecommunication systems strategic plan the provision of "critical application recovery capabilities" in the event of an emergency. Finally, the act requires the Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) Council to meet quarterly instead of monthly. The council is responsible for coordinating a GIS capacity for the state, regional planning agencies, municipalities, and others as needed. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00019-R00HB-05323-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5449 (Public Act 08-21) An Act Concerning Issuance Of Emergency Certificates By Licensed Clinical Social Workers And Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. This act permits social workers and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who are members of crisis intervention or advanced supervision and intervention support teams operated by or under contract with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to issue emergency certificates directing a person with psychiatric disabilities to be taken to a hospital for evaluation. Previously, only social workers and APRNs who were members of a DMHAS operated or funded mobile crisis team, jail diversion program, or assertive case management program could issue emergency certificates. As with social workers and APRNs previously authorized to issue emergency certificates, those working in the newly covered programs must (1) have received at least eight hours of specialized training in conducting direct evaluations and (2) as a result of direct evaluation, believe the person has psychiatric disabilities; is a danger to himself, herself, or others, or gravely disabled; and needs immediate care or treatment. Public Act 08-21 became effective upon passage. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00021-R00HB-05449-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5590 (Special Act 08-5) An Act Concerning The Teaching Of Children With Autism And Other Developmental Disabilities. The act requires the Commissioners of Education and Developmental Services, and the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) to define autism and developmental disabilities (for the purposes of the act), and to define a statewide plan to incorporate methods of teaching children with autism and developmental disabilities into programs, requirements, and training. The act also requires that while developing recommendations related to programs, requirements, and training, the Commissioners of Education and Developmental Services, and the Chancellor of CSUS must take into consideration a set of issues, defined by the act, related to children with autism and developmental disabilities. House "A" added the Commissioner of Developmental Services to the underlying bill, as well as entities required to consult, including: the constituent units of the state system of higher education, independent colleges and universities, the State Education Resource Center, and the regional educational service centers. Not later than February 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Education and Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System, or their designees, shall report recommendations developed pursuant to the act to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, public health and higher education. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/SA/2008SA-00005-R00HB-05590-SA.htm>

H.B. No. 5650 (Public Act 08-106) An Act Concerning Child Product Safety establishes limits for lead in children's products by amending the State Child Protection Act, the state's

counterpart to the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA). With certain exceptions, it makes children's products that fail to comply with the limits banned hazardous substances. It also prohibits the sale of toys or other articles marketed for children under age 16 that contain asbestos. The act requires retailers and other businesses selling a banned hazardous substance to complete a certificate of disposition to account for its disposal. It requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner, who administers the State Child Protection Act, to post on the department's website a list of toys and other articles intended for use by children that are banned hazardous substances. The commissioner must also consult with the departments of Public Health (DPH) and Environmental Protection (DEP) to compile a list of other toxic substances and safer alternatives. The commissioner may adopt regulations requiring certain consumer products to have warning labels if they bear lead-containing paint. The act also: 1. increases related criminal and civil penalties; 2. requires stores to post notices when DCP designates an article as a banned hazardous substance, making failure to do so an unfair trade practice; and 3. makes failure to allow a DCP inspector or investigator to inspect an establishment where hazardous substances are manufactured or obtain a sample an unfair trade practice. The act authorizes the DEP commissioner to take part in an interstate clearinghouse to classify chemicals according to the risks they pose. The effective date is October 1, 2008, except the provisions concerning the certificate of disposition and the interstate clearinghouse, which are effective upon passage. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00106-R00HB-05650-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5658 (Public Act 08-167) An Act Concerning The Confidentiality Of Social Security Numbers. This act, effective October 1, 2008, requires anyone possessing personal information about another person to safeguard it and the computer files and documents that contain it. "Personal information" is information that can be associated with an individual through an identifier like a Social Security number. It requires a business that collects Social Security numbers to create a privacy protection policy that must ensure confidentiality of Social Security numbers. The act exempts state agencies and political subdivisions from the duty to safeguard personal information. It subjects violators to a civil penalty of \$500 for each violation, up to a maximum of \$500,000 per event. It provides that a violation is not a violation if it is unintentional. Civil penalties must be deposited into the Privacy Protection Guaranty and Enforcement Account. (Because legislation establishing the account was not enacted, penalties will presumably be deposited into the General Fund.) <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00167-R00HB-05658-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5666 (Public Act 08-63) An Act Concerning Expansion Of The Pilot Program For Persons With Autism Spectrum Disorders. This act, effective upon passage, expands, from 50 to 75, the number of people who can participate in the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) pilot program for adults with autism spectrum disorders but not mental retardation. The program provides coordinated services and support, including case management, for people not otherwise eligible for DDS services and their families. The act requires the DDS commissioner to ensure that eligible adults living outside the pilot's existing service area (parts of New Haven and Middlesex counties) have access to the expanded slots. The act extends the pilot's end date by nine months, from October 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. The law requires DSS to report on the pilot's results by January 1, 2009. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00063-R00HB-05666-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5696 (Public Act 08-132) An Act Requiring Insurance Coverage For Autism Spectrum Disorder Therapies requires health insurance policies delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut on or after January 1, 2009 to cover physical, speech, and occupational therapy services provided to treat autism spectrum disorders if the policies cover

these services for other diseases and conditions. It defines “autism spectrum disorder” as the American Psychiatric Association's most recent *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* uses the phrase. This act applies this requirement to group and individual (1) health insurance policies that cover basic hospital, medical-surgical, or major medical expenses; (2) HMO contracts covering hospital and medical expenses; and (3) hospital or medical service contracts. Due to federal law, this requirement does not apply to self-insured plans.
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00132-R00HB-05696-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5706 (Public Act 08-24) An Act Concerning The Placement Of Identifying Marks On Dental Prostheses. This act requires state-licensed dentists to offer to those patients who need removable prosthetic dentures, bridges, appliances, or other structures the opportunity to have the patient's name or initials placed on the prosthesis. This applies to dentists who either make or direct the prosthesis to be made. The markings must be done when the prosthesis is made with the location and methods used to apply or implant the markings determined by the dentist or person acting on his or her behalf. The markings must be permanent, legible, and cosmetically acceptable. The dentist must advise the patient of any additional charges for the prosthesis markings. The act allows the markings to be omitted if the dentist or entity making the prosthesis determines it is not practicable or clinically safe. The act takes effect October 1, 2008.
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00024-R00HB-05706-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5724 (Public Act 08-168) An Act Concerning Energy Scarcity And Security, Renewable And Clean Energy And A State Solar Strategy. This act, effective upon passage, requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to conduct a petroleum sensitivity study of state agencies. The study must include a statewide assessment and inventory of state departments and agencies and their activities and corollary need to consume petroleum. OPM must consult with the state's Clean Energy Fund in conducting the study. It can use up to \$ 250,000 of funding from the fund for this purpose and contract with a consultant to perform the study. OPM must report the study findings to the Energy and Technology Committee by December 1, 2008. The act establishes an eight-member task force to study energy scarcity and sustainability. The task force must conduct scenario planning for long-term petroleum and natural gas scarcity, steep price increases, and supply disruptions. The study must examine the impacts of natural gas and petroleum price and scarcity on the economy, food supply, transportation, education, health, and emergency response and can address other issues.
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00168-R00HB-05724-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5734 (Public Act 08-155) An Act Concerning New And Expanded Bus Transportation Services Throughout Connecticut This act establishes a program to be administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT) within available budgetary resources, called the “Buses for 21st Century Mobility program.” The purpose of the program is to provide new and expanded bus transportation services. DOT must begin accepting applications from publicly funded transportation providers and nonprofit community transportation service providers on July 1, 2008. The act also makes up to \$ 5 million in bonding previously authorized by law for implementing transportation strategy projects and initiatives available for purchasing vehicles for the Buses for 21st Century Mobility program. It does this by replacing the current authorization for use of this funding for clean diesel bus retrofits. The effective date is July 1, 2008, except for the change in the bonding authorization, which is effective upon passage. The bill specifies that the new and expanded services include: 1. expanding existing services when a need has been demonstrated for expansion, including weekend and evening service and increased frequency of service; 2. providing new services where a need has been demonstrated for it; 3. new rail shuttle services; 4. express bus commuter services; 5. greater coordination of marketing and web-trip planning of transit services; and 6. other bus transportation programs designed to

increase bus riding opportunities for Connecticut residents.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00155-R00HB-05734-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5802 (Public Act 08-65) An Act Concerning The State Fire Prevention Code. This act, effective October 1, 2008, makes several changes affecting enforcement of the state Fire Prevention Code, which the law requires the state to adopt by October 1, 2008, and the state Fire Safety Code. With regard to the Fire Prevention Code, the act (1) allows the state fire marshal to issue official code interpretations; (2) establishes a code waiver process; (3) removes the state Codes and Standards Committee from the appeal process for fire safety and prevention decisions, requiring appeals of local fire marshals' decisions to be made to the state fire marshal and appeals of the state fire marshal's decisions to be made to Superior Court; (4) allows the state fire marshal and local fire marshals to issue orders and citations to building owners and occupants to correct code violations; and (5) establishes a penalty of up to six months in prison, a fine of \$200 to \$1,000, or both, for code violations. The act expands the authority of police officers and local fire officials to order people to vacate buildings for safety reasons and establishes state oversight of such orders when an unsafe building condition cannot be corrected in four hours or less. It reduces the penalty for certain unsafe building conditions for which the local fire marshal issues corrective orders. It allows fire code officials to inspect manufacturing establishments, which are currently exempt from the inspection requirements that apply to other buildings.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00065-R00HB-05802-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5808 (Public Act 08-66) An Act Concerning Social Security Numbers On Vital Records. This act protects individual privacy rights by ensuring that any social security number (SSN) that is placed on a birth certificate is placed in the confidential section of the birth certificate. Federal law makes confidential any Social Security numbers (SSNs) and related records obtained under any law enacted on or after October 1, 1990 and prohibits state or local officials from disclosing them. This act tightens access to SSNs on birth and fetal death certificates recorded before that date and on marriage and death certificates recorded after July 1, 1997 when state law first required recording them. This act, effective October 1, 2008, bars disclosure of parents' SSNs recorded on birth and fetal death certificates and records unless authorized by state or federal law or by the Public Health Department (DPH) for statistical or research purposes. Prior law permitted disclosure of parents' SSNs to various parties under certain circumstances. The act also requires registrars of vital statistics to record this information in the confidential portion of the certificates instead of the "information for statistical purposes only" section. The act extends several marriage license laws to civil union licenses and limits access to SSNs on both marriage and civil union licenses. And it limits those who can get a certified copy of certain death certificates containing a SSN.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00066-R00HB-05808-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5839 (Public Act 08-111) An Act Concerning The Implementation Of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Starting in FY 09, this act allows the comptroller to make incremental changes to the way the comptroller prepares and maintains the state's annual financial statement. The changes must be consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and eventually lead to full GAAP implementation. By law, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary may use GAAP to prepare the annual state budget. The act allows, rather than requires, the comptroller and presumably the OPM secretary to concurrently prepare conversion plans for implementing GAAP. If they decide to do so, they must prepare the plans annually, rather than by February 1, 2009, and submit them to the Appropriations Committee when the governor submits her biennium budget and budget status report to the General Assembly. By law, the governor must submit the budget document by the first session day after February 3rd in

odd-numbered years and the status report by the opening day of the session in even-numbered years. The act eliminates a requirement for the comptroller to (1) use GAAP to establish an opening combined balance sheet for all appropriated funds beginning in FY 10 and (2) amortize the GAAP deficit over 15 years beginning in FY 11. The effective date of this act is July 1, 2008. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00111-R00HB-05839-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5845 (Public Act 08-140) An Act Concerning The Homecare Option Program For The Elderly (HOPE). This act exempts dividends and capital gains earned on contributions to an account in the Homecare Option Program for the Elderly (HOPE) from the designated account beneficiary's state income tax. Interest earned on such contributions was already exempt. It expands the specified people who can benefit from a HOPE account to include any designated beneficiary. Under prior law, only a person who entered into the HOPE participation agreement or who was later designated as that person's spouse or civil union partner could benefit. Finally, the act adds certain requirements and stipulations concerning the status of the HOPE trust fund, its relationship to the state, and how deposits must be administered. The act becomes effective July 1, 2008. The tax exemption applies to tax years starting on or after January 1, 2008. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00140-R00HB-05845-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5899 (Public Act 08-141) An Act Concerning On-Line Procurement By State Agencies, Municipalities And Regional And Local School Districts. This act, effective upon passage, allows contracting agencies to use a reverse auction to award contracts for goods or supplies if they determine that doing so would be advantageous to the agencies and ensure a competitive contract award. Contracting agencies may contract with a third party to prepare and manage the reverse auction. The act requires that agencies comply with their policies and any applicable statutory requirements when using a reverse auction to award these contracts. Under the act, "contracting agencies" are state agencies with statutory authority to award contracts for goods or supplies, political subdivisions of the state, and school districts. "Reverse auction" means an on-line bidding process in which qualified bidders and proposers anonymously submit bids or proposals to provide goods or supplies pursuant to an invitation to bid or request for proposals. By law, the administrative services commissioner is generally responsible for purchasing, leasing, or contracting for supplies, materials, equipment, and personal services that most Executive Branch agencies require. The commissioner of administrative services may delegate to agency heads the authority to make their own purchases or contracts. The law requires the commissioner to purchase or contract for supplies, materials, equipment, and personal services, when possible, based on competitive bids or competitive negotiation (CGS § 4a-57). <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00141-R00HB-05899-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5902 (Public Act 08-79) An Act Concerning Hospital Staffing. Beginning July 1, 2009, the act requires each licensed hospital, upon request, to make available to the Department of Public Health (DPH) a prospective nurse staffing plan and a written certification that the plan is sufficient to provide adequate and appropriate patient health care services in the ensuing hospital licensure period. The plan must promote collaborative practice in the hospital that improves patient care and the level of services that nurses and other hospital patient care team members provide. The act requires each hospital to establish a staffing committee to assist in preparing the nurse staffing plan. The hospital, in collaboration with the committee, must develop and implement the plan to the best of its ability. Hospitals may use existing committees to assist in plan development under certain conditions. "Hospital" means an establishment for the lodging, care, and treatment of persons suffering from disease or other abnormal physical or mental conditions and includes inpatient psychiatric services in general hospitals. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00079-R00HB-05902-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5904 (Public Act 08-45) An Act Concerning Recovery Exceptions For Public Accommodation Discrimination Settlements And Awards. This act, effective October 1, 2008, prohibits the state from claiming or applying a lien against any money received as a settlement or award in a public accommodation discrimination case by people who have been supported wholly or in part by the state in a humane institution. Such discrimination could include being barred from a public place based on race, religion, or gender. The law defines these institutions as a state mental hospital, community mental health center, treatment facility for children and adolescents, or any other facility or program administered by the departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental Services or Children and Families. The prohibition also applies to claims or liens against individuals who received assistance from the State Supplement, Medicaid, Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), Aid to Families with Dependent Children (replaced by TFA in 1997), and State-Administered General Assistance programs. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00045-R00HB-05904-PA.htm>

JUNE SPECIAL SESSION:

S.B. No. 1001 (Public Act 08-1 JSS) An Act Concerning The Municipal Share Of The Real Estate Conveyance Tax. The act extended the expiration date of the basic 0.25% municipal real estate conveyance tax rate for two years, until July 1, 2010. This extension also maintains the maximum 0.5% municipal option rate allowable in 18 eligible towns for the same period. With some exceptions, Connecticut law requires a person who sells real property for \$ 2,000 or more to pay a real estate conveyance tax when he or she conveys the property to the buyer. The tax has two parts: a state tax and a municipal tax. The applicable state and municipal rates are added together to get the total tax rate for a particular transaction. <http://cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/Pa/pdf/2008PA-00001-R00SB-01001SS2-PA.pdf>

S.B. No. 1000 (Public Act 08-2 JSS) An Act Concerning Adjustments To Certain Petroleum Products Taxes, Petroleum Franchise Agreements, Gasoline Discounts For Consumers, Home Heating Oil And Propane Gas Contract Deposits And The Fuel Oil Conservation Account. This act eliminated a scheduled July 1, 2008 increase in the petroleum products gross earning tax rate from 7% to 7.5%, thus maintaining the 7% rate until the next scheduled increase to 8.1% on July 1, 2013. The act declares that competitive pricing is essential to the functioning of a fair and efficient free market economy in the petroleum industry and bans gasoline franchise contracts from prohibiting gasoline dealers and distributors from offering discounts for using any method of payment. The act modified (1) the receivership and post-judgment remedy laws by increasing the amount that a receiver may pay for certain consumer deposits and (2) the receivership laws by increasing the amount that a court may pay for wages owed. It specified that "consumer deposits" include deposits made to a home heating oil or propane gas dealer under a prepaid or capped price per gallon contract. By law, part of the growth in revenues from the petroleum products gross receipts tax above 2006 levels goes into a special account which will be used to fund fuel oil conservation programs. Public Act 08-2 JSS modified when funds are transferred into this account and makes minor changes to the board that administers the account. <http://cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/Pa/pdf/2008PA-00002-R00SB-01000SS2-PA.pdf>

H.B. No. 6502 (Public Act 08-3 JSS) An Act Concerning Comprehensive Ethics Reforms. This act: 1. generally permits state courts to revoke or reduce any retirement or other benefit due to state or municipal officials or employees who commit certain crimes related to their employment; 2. makes it a class A misdemeanor for public servants to fail to report a bribe; 3. expands illegal campaign finance practices to cover certain solicitations by chiefs of staff;

4. makes several changes to state codes of ethics such as limiting gift exceptions, prohibiting state contractors from hiring certain former public officials and state employees, restricting the Office of State Ethics' (OSE) authority to issue subpoenas, prohibiting *ex parte* communications during OSE hearings on ethics complaints, limiting Citizens' Advisory Board members who can act on ethics complaints, and subjecting the governor's spouse to the code; 5. requires OSE to provide mandatory training to legislators on the Code of Ethics for Public Officials; and 6. requires public agencies to post, on available web sites, meeting dates, times, and minutes required by law to be publicly disclosed. Public Act 08-1 JSS becomes effective October 1, 2008. <http://cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/Pa/pdf/2008PA-00003-R00HB-06502SS2-PA.pdf>

BILLS THAT WERE VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR:

To date, the Governor has vetoed six (6) public acts passed in the 2008 session. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/2008veto%20package/2008-R-0371.pdf>

S.B. No. 678 (Public Act 08-165) An Act Establishing A Community-Based Health And Human Services Cabinet established a four-year, 25-member Health and Human Services Cabinet, in the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for administrative purposes, to help to ensure continued funding of certain health and human services. The cabinet would have been responsible for assessing health and human service provision in Connecticut, including funding for nonprofit community providers under purchase of service (POS) agreements. By June 30, 2009, within available appropriations: the cabinet was to 1. conduct a statewide assessment of the system structure serving Connecticut; 2. assess the contracting processes (presumably for POS contracts) and make suggestions for streamlining, transparency, and accountability; 3. identify a sustainable funding structure; and 4. develop results-based accountability measures for the human services delivery system. By January 1, 2010, establish an integrated strategic plan for serving Connecticut's health and human service needs by identifying: 1. an integrated, outcome-based service system that maximizes federal and state funding; 2. a sustainable funding structure that specifically addresses long-term funding solutions for nonprofit community providers under POS contracts; 3. methods for interdepartmental cooperation; 4. methods for service co-location; 5. cooperative programming; and 6. cooperative purchasing. And by December 31, 2012, recommend to the governor and the Appropriations and Human Services committees a governance plan identifying an appropriate coordinating entity to implement a statewide Health and Human Services Plan. The Act was vetoed by the Governor on June 13, 2008. The Senate reconsidered the bill on June 23, 2008 and the veto was sustained. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00165-R00SB-00678-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5105 (Public Act 08-92) An Act Concerning The Minimum Wage increases the minimum wage to eight dollars per hour. This act raises the state hourly minimum wage from \$7.65 to \$8.00 beginning January 1, 2009 and to \$8.25 beginning January 1, 2010. The act was vetoed by the Governor on May 27, 2007. The bill was reconsidered during the veto session on June 23, 2008 and the veto was overruled. Therefore, the bill takes effect as passed. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00092-R00HB-05105-PA.htm>

H.B. No. 5536 (Public Act 08-183) An Act Establishing The Connecticut Healthcare Partnership would have allowed municipalities, certain municipal service contractors, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses to join the state employee health insurance plan for their employees and retirees. Under it, all new employees would be pooled together with state employees in the state insurance plan. The act was vetoed by the Governor on June 13, 2008. <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2008/ACT/PA/2008PA-00183-R00HB-05536-PA.htm>

BUDGET:

The Governor's Fiscal Year 2009 Mid Term Budget recommendation at the beginning of the session in February included funding for an additional 6 Case Managers. It also supported the adjustments necessary to serve children and youth who were identified to the department subsequent to the appropriation made at the beginning of the biennium. This includes 9 age outs needing day services, 19 additional school graduates and 18 age outs needing residential services. The mid-term budget recommendation also supported the growth we have experienced in the Voluntary Services Program by adding funding for 60 additional referrals. The Governor's Budget also recommended a one-time reduction of \$1,016,000 to reflect typical delays in placement development. The Appropriations Committee maintained these recommended changes and added a 1% COLA for private providers and an additional \$50,000 for the Best Buddies Program.

Unfortunately, due to forecasts indicating declining revenues statewide, the Legislature and the Governor decided to maintain the original second year of the budget that passed both chambers last year. What this means for DDS and its service providers is that none of the changes in the above paragraph were enacted. The Governor and the Legislature have instead made a decision to hold the line on spending and live within the budget previously adopted last year. In addition, the Governor has directed state agencies to reduce fuel consumption, restrict the use of non-essential purchases and has issued an out-of-state travel ban and instituted a hiring freeze. On a positive note, the department's FY 09 appropriation supports the continuation of the waiting list initiative and funding for age outs, voluntary services and school graduates at the level requested at the beginning of the 2-year biennium. Also, the Autism Pilot will be expanded to include participants from a new region of the state, specifically Hartford County. DDS will continue to assist the private provider community in any way we can as they continue to be faced with the challenges of the rising costs of goods, energy, insurance and other fixed expenses.

The following list is of bills that did NOT pass this session. Please note that many of these bills were duplicative and may have been incorporated into other bills (check the "bills that were signed into law" section of this report to verify if a concept went forward via another bill). Bill history links are included to provide additional information regarding 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:

BILLS THAT MADE IT OUT OF COMMITTEE BUT DID NOT PASS:

S.B. No. 27 An Act Authorizing Bonds Of The State For Capital Improvements And Other Purposes authorized a total of \$ 99,135,280 in new state general obligation bonding for FY 09. Of this amount, \$ 42,935,280 in authorizations is for state agency capital projects, \$ 35.6 million is for state agency grants for local and regional projects and purposes, and \$ 20.6 million is for increases in prior FY 09 authorizations. Sec. 2(f) included \$1,295,000 in bonding funds for alterations, renovations or new construction for a Department of Developmental Services group home in the town of Putnam. S.B. 27 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 29 An Act Concerning Electronic Publication Of The Regulations Of Connecticut State Agencies required the Department of Information Technology (DOIT) to cause state

agencies to publish a compilation of their effective regulations on their internet web sites. S.B. 29 died in the Government Administration and Election Committee.

S.B. No. 32 An Act Concerning The Financial Condition Of Nursing Homes would have made numerous changes in the law related to the financial oversight, management, operation, and licensure of nursing homes. It would have: 1. established new financial reporting requirements for nursing homes and nursing facility management services agencies and allowed the state comptroller to conduct financial audits; 2. allowed the court to appoint a receiver of a nursing home upon a finding of “gross financial mismanagement”; 3. made changes to the Department of Public Health's (DPH) certification process for management companies operating nursing homes; 4. required nursing home property or building owners to comply with Public Health Code requirements concerning property maintenance and repair; 5. established minimum liability insurance coverage requirements for nursing homes; 6. changed certificate of need (CON) and licensure requirements when a nursing home changes ownership; 7. placed certain restrictions on a nursing home operator's ability to acquire a nursing home if they violate nursing home laws in Connecticut or in another state or have nursing home problems related to Medicare and Medicaid; 8. changed the membership of the Nursing Home Financial Advisory Committee; and 9. placed restrictions on nursing home rental payments, loan payments, and management fees. S.B. 32 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 34 An Act Implementing The Governor’s Budget Recommendations With Respect To Social Services Programs would have made several unrelated changes in the law governing the Department of Social Services' (DSS) programs. S.B. 34 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 64 An Act Concerning Scarring Awards Under The Workers' Compensation Act expanded the workers' compensation law to provide benefits for permanent disfigurement or scarring of any body part. The bill would have eliminated the ban on scarring awards for scars resulting from (1) inguinal hernia or spinal surgery and (2) the loss of, or the loss of use of, a body part for which the claimant received permanent partial disability benefits. It specified that a commissioner could provide the employer's representative, instead of the employer, with the required notice of a hearing to consider a scarring award. S.B. 64 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 156 An Act Concerning A Nursing Home Report Card would have required the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop a nursing home report card that allowed individuals to compare the quality of nursing home facilities in the state. DPH would have been required to provide access to the report card through the Internet and by maintaining a toll-free telephone number. Under the bill, the report card would have allowed an individual to view information on all the quality measures about a specific facility. They would be able to search for information on any nursing home facility in the state by name or zip code. The report card would also enable individuals to rank facilities in a specific area of the state on three quality measures of their choosing. S.B. 156 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 174 An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Program Review And Investigations Committee Concerning The Department Of Children And Families would have: 1. required the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to develop and regularly update a single, comprehensive, strategic plan; 2. expanded the authority and oversight of the State Advisory Council on Children and Families with respect to DCF programs and services; 3. required, rather than allowed, DCF to establish advisory groups for each facility it operates (i.e., Connecticut Children's Place, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS), High Meadows, Riverview Hospital, and the Wilderness School) and provide them administrative staff; 4. required DCF to obtain an external evaluation that analyzes and assesses the outcomes of any

program, service, or facility it establishes on or after July 1, 2008 whose funding exceeds \$ 20 million in a single fiscal year; and 5. directed DCF and the juvenile court to establish a pilot program to integrate DCF's treatment plan for abused and neglected children with the court's orders concerning specific steps their parents must take in order to regain custody. S.B. 174 died in the Judiciary Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 176 An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Program Review And Investigations Committee Study Of State Planning would have established an 18-member Council on Connecticut's Future within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The council would develop and implement a planning process for the state's future including specified elements. Each quarter, the council would meet to assess progress with respect to achievement of one of the state goals. The heads of the state agencies and institutions responsible for achieving the goal would report to the council on their progress and describe any impediments. The bill repealed (1) the Connecticut Progress Council and (2) the Department of Economic and Community Development commissioner's responsibilities related to the study of and preparation for Connecticut's future. S.B. 176 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 177 An Act Concerning Funding For Recommendations Of The Program Review And Investigations Committee Concerning The Department Of Children And Families appropriated \$1.5 million to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for FY 09. The department would use the money to hire an external consultant to determine the technology requirements needed to integrate all of the department's information systems and to design a system that supports child welfare practices, data analysis, and communication on a department-wide basis. The new system would need to be compatible with other state agency data systems. The bill also appropriated \$200,000 to the Office of the Child Advocate for FY 09 for an upgraded data management system. S.B. 177 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 180 An Act Concerning Firefighter Training would have expanded the purposes for which the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control may use its fire school training and education extension account, expanding the number of programs for which the commission may provide reimbursement within available appropriations. S.B. 180 died on the foot of the Senate Calendar.

S.B. No. 201 An Act Establishing A Demonstration Project For An Office Of Administrative Hearings would have established an Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) as a demonstration project. The original bill required OAH to conduct contested case hearings for the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and the Departments of Children and Families and Transportation. In the Judiciary Committee version of the bill, OAH would conduct contested case hearings for the (1) Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) with respect to allegations of retaliation against whistleblowers only, and (2) Departments of Children and Families, Social Services, and Transportation. The bill required the office to conduct the hearings in accordance with the bill and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA). After the hearings, the bill required OAH to issue a proposed final decision or final decision, if allowed or required by law. Any proposed final decision may have been rejected, modified, or accepted by the referring agency. It would have become final if the agencies failed to act within a specified period. S.B. 201 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 203 An Act Concerning The Sale Of State Real Property would have changed the process for declaring surplus and disposing of unneeded state land or improvements to land (property) under the custody and control of the Commissioner of Public Works. By law, the

secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) may declare a state agency's unneeded property as surplus if no other state agency submits a plan for using it. Once property is declared surplus, the DPW commissioner must sell, lease, or otherwise convey it. The bill also required the DPW commissioner to present a status report to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee each session on the surplus property under his custody and control. S.B. 203 died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 205 An Act Concerning The Implementation Of State Contracting Reform. PA 07-1 of the 2007 September Special Session (SSS) revamped the state's contracting process by establishing a State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB) as an independent agency and giving it various responsibilities associated with state contracting, including adopting procurement regulations and reviewing, monitoring, and auditing state contracting agencies' procurement processes. The law's procurement procedures apply to any contract, other than a privatization contract, a state contracting agency solicits or enters after June 1, 2010. The law requires the Judicial and Legislative branches and statewide officers to each adopt a procurement code. It establishes a procedure for privatizing state contracts, including a requirement for cost-benefit analyses and business cases. This bill would have changed the dates for implementing PA 07-1, SSS. In some cases, it changed the effective dates of specific sections of PA 07-1, SSS and, in others, it changed the date by which specified actions must occur. The bill would have changed the contract exemption in the law's privatization procedures. By law, a state contracting agency may contract with a nonprofit agency without first developing a cost-benefit analysis and a business case if (1) the state contracting agency has a contract with the nonprofit on January 1, 2009 and (2) the contract will continue to be awarded to nonprofits through contract renewals, modifications, extensions, or re-biddings. The bill applied the exemption to contracts in effect on October 1, 2008, rather than January 1, 2009. The Senate passed S.B. 205 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 217 An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave To Employees would have required all employers with 25 or more employees to provide their employees with paid sick leave accruing at a rate of one hour for each 40 hours worked. Once employed for 90 days, employees would be eligible to use the time and could use up to 52 hours of accrued sick leave a year. The leave could be used for an employee's or the employee's child's illness, treatment of an illness, diagnosis, and preventive medical care. It could also be used for reasons related to the employee being a victim of family violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Current law does not require employers to provide sick leave, whether paid or unpaid. The bill would not have covered day and temporary workers. Senate Amendment "A" (1) increased the size of the employer, from those with 25 employees or more to those with 50 or more; (2) increased the number of days, from 90 to 120, an employee must work before being able to use accrued sick time; (3) limited to 52 the maximum number of sick leave hours that can be accrued in a year; (4) specified that paid sick time will be paid at the employee's current hourly rate or at the minimum wage, whichever is higher; (5) specified the bill does not entitle an employee to be paid for unused sick time upon termination of employment; and (6) made other clarifying and technical changes. Senate Amendment "C" (1) removed the provisions that permit paid sick leave when the employee is a victim of family violence, sexual assault, or stalking and (2) specified the bill does not diminish any employee rights provided under a union contract and does not preempt any union contract that is in effect before October 1, 2008. Senate Amendment "E" allowed, within limits and by mutual agreement of employer and employee, the employee to work additional hours to make up for time missed, instead of using paid sick leave. The Senate passed S.B. 217 as amended by Senate Amendments A, C and E. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 241 An Act Examining The Licensure System For The Department Of Children And Families would have required the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to seek Public Health Department (DPH) licensure for Riverview Hospital by July 1, 2009. It required DPH to adopt regulations by December 31, 2008 establishing minimum licensing standards for Riverview. Current law exempts state-operated mental health or substance abuse treatment facilities like Riverview from DPH licensure. The bill also required the secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), and a committee the secretary appoints, to evaluate the existing licensing system for facilities under DCF's jurisdiction, that is, facilities DCF operates directly and the private facilities it licenses. S.B. 241 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 246 An Act Establishing A Loan Forgiveness Program For Historically Underrepresented Students Pursuing Careers In Nursing would have required the Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the Board of Governors of Higher Education, to establish a program for the forgiveness of loans provided by the state to students of racial or ethnic minority groups who are pursuing a degree leading to licensure as a registered nurse. The loans would be completely forgiven if the student practiced as a registered nurse in Connecticut for five years. S.B. 246 died in the Appropriations Committee.

S.B. No. 254 An Act Concerning Credit In The State Employees Retirement System For All Prior State Service would have permitted state employees with a break in state service that is longer than their initial state service, to purchase retirement credit for their initial service time. It would apply in cases where the employee's initial service is not long enough for them to earn a vested retirement benefit. Under existing law and collective bargaining agreements, employees whose break in state employment is longer than their initial work period cannot purchase retirement time based on the initial period. S.B. 254 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 255 An Act Concerning Additional Benefits For Wage Loss Under The Workers' Compensation Act would have extended the maximum number of weeks of additional workers' compensation benefits for partial permanent disabilities that a workers' compensation commissioner may award after a claimant has exhausted the statutory schedule for regular benefits. Under current law, a commissioner has the discretion to give additional weeks of benefits for a maximum period equal to the lesser of the duration of the initial benefits for partial permanent disability or 520 weeks. The duration of this discretionary benefit depends on the claimant's earnings loss due to the injury. Under the bill, the claimant could have received the full duration of the statutory benefit schedule as discretionary benefits regardless of the duration of the initial benefit award. This would apply whether the initial benefit is based on earnings loss or on proportionate loss of ability. S.B. 255 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 280 An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage For Bone Marrow Testing And Prostheses, And Requiring A Health Benefits Impact Review Of Health Insurance Mandates In This State. The original bill required certain health insurance policies to provide specified coverage for (1) human leukocyte antigen testing, which determines bone marrow compatibility for transplants, and (2) prosthetic devices. The bill required the insurance commissioner to contract with an independent entity to review (1) the benefits that Connecticut law, as of October 1, 2008, requires health insurance policies to provide and (2) upon the Insurance and Real Estate Committee's request, any (a) proposed change to a benefit or service mandate or (b) legislation proposing to enact or repeal a mandate on or after January 1, 2009. The reviews would evaluate each benefit's (1) financial impact and (2) impact on access to and availability of insurance coverage. Senate Amendment "A" deleted provisions requiring (1)

insurance coverage for prosthetic devices and (2) the insurance commissioner to contract with an independent entity to study the cost of current and, upon request, proposed insurance coverage mandates. With respect to bone marrow testing, it decreased the maximum amount an insurer could charge a patient from 30% to 20% and replaced the association that may serve as the testing facility accrediting body. The Senate passed S.B. 280 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 283 An Act Concerning The Availability Of Hospice Services Under The Medicaid Program would have to required the Commissioner of Social Services to amend the Medicaid state plans to include hospice services, that include the provision of bereavement services, as a covered service under the state's Medicaid program. S.B. 283 died in the Human Services Committee.

S.B. No. 303 An Act Creating A Comprehensive System For Children And Families From Birth To Age Five directed eight state agencies, including the Department of Developmental Services, to develop a model for master contracting to improve child outcomes and deliver outcome-focused, integrated services to children from birth to age five and their families. It would seek to achieve the following outcomes: (1) decreased low birth weight and teen pregnancy rates and (2) increased prenatal care; well-child visits; breastfeeding; early detection and prevention screening and assessment; quality infant, toddler, and child care capacity; and cross-agency information sharing. The model would promote (1) collaborative management across departments and agencies and (2) work with local communities to implement strategies that focused on families and children with an outcome-based system. S.B. 303 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 312 An Act Concerning A Deduction From The Personal Income Tax For Medical Expenses And Health Insurance would have allowed a taxpayer to deduct from Connecticut adjusted gross income for state income tax purposes, amounts paid for (1) premiums for certain group and individual health insurance and long-term care policies and (2) certain medical expenses. It limited a taxpayer's annual deduction for such premiums and medical expenses to \$500 per family member. S.B. 312 died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 319 An Act Prohibiting Blocking The Box would have prohibited a motor vehicle from proceeding into an intersection when there was insufficient space on the opposite side of the intersection for the vehicle so that it does not obstruct the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians. This applies even if the traffic light permits the motor vehicle to proceed. But it does not apply to proceeding into an intersection to make a turn. This conduct would have been punishable as an infraction if a sign at the intersection indicates that blocking the intersection is prohibited and subjects violators to a fine. S.B. 319 died on the House Calendar.

S.B. No. 332 An Act Concerning Collective Bargaining For State Managers would have allowed state managers, other than bureau heads, to bargain collectively. It defines a "bureau head" as anyone who heads a major division of the state and reports to the head or deputy head of the state entity. The bill established mechanisms to limit how many managerial employees could be reclassified as bureau heads. Current law prohibits managers, elected and appointed officials, board and commission members, confidential employees, Legislative Branch employees, and others from bargaining collectively. The bill would not affect Legislative Branch managers. The Senate recommitted S.B. 332 to the Labor and Public Employees Committee and the bill died.

S.B. No. 333 An Act Concerning Comprehensive Ethics Reforms would have:

1. generally permitted state courts to revoke or reduce any retirement or other benefits due to state or municipal officials or employees who commit certain crimes related to their employment; 2. made it a class A misdemeanor for public servants to fail to report a bribe; 3. established a Legislative Code of Conduct and a Legislative Ethics Committee to enforce it; 4. prohibited public officials from engaging in conduct that creates an appearance of impropriety; and 5. required legislators to attend biennial training on the State Code of Ethics for Public Officials and the Legislative Code of Conduct. Senate Amendment “A” deleted the provisions in the original bill on (1) a Legislative Code of Conduct and a Legislative Ethics Committee to enforce it and (2) the appearance of impropriety. It (1) eliminated the language in the original bill that made the corrupt officials provision retroactive; (2) capped the amount of pension reduction or revocation unless public interest demands otherwise; (3) expanded the conduct that constitutes failure to report a bribe; (4) expanded illegal campaign finance practices; (5) made several changes to the state codes of ethics; (6) required public agencies to post meeting information on websites; and (7) required mandatory ethics training every four, rather than every two, years as provided in the original bill. House Amendment “A” eliminated the pension reduction or revocation cap in Senate “A” and replaced it with a cap applicable to state and municipal employees only. The Senate passed S.B. 333 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The House passed the bill as amended by Senate Amendment A and House Amendment A. The Senate rejected House Amendment A. The Senate passed S.B. 333 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 334 An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations Of The Office Of State Ethics would have made several changes in the State Ethics Code. Specifically, it would have (1) accorded contractors, potential contractors, and consultants due process before they are prohibited from bidding on state contracts because of alleged prior unethical behavior, (2) expanded the classes of people subject to the code, and (3) required agency procurement officers to file annual statements of financial interests with the Office of State Ethics (OSE). Senate Amendment “A” (1) eliminated the provision of the underlying bill that expanded the code's application to Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board members, directors, and employees and (2) added the provision on legal representation during ethics complaint proceedings. The Senate passed S.B. 334 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 335 An Act Concerning The Protection Of Whistleblowers would have expanded current protections for whistleblowers and established new ones. Generally, it (1) extended the time whistleblowers have to file complaints of retaliation; (2) extended, from one to three years, the period during which there is a rebuttable presumption that negative personnel actions against whistleblowers are retaliatory; (3) expanded the rebuttable presumption to protect individuals who are retaliated against for making internal disclosures; and (4) authorized the attorney general to join certain retaliation proceedings before the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO). The Senate passed S.B. 335. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 336 An Act Concerning Transparency In Government would have prohibited the General Assembly from passing or enacting bills until they have been on members' desks for at least two legislative days unless (1) the Senate president pro tempore and House speaker certify in writing the facts that require an immediate vote or (2) a bill incorporates or consists of a germane amendment. For “strike all” amendments, this bill instead, would have applied the two-day requirement. Presumably, a germane amendment remains exempt from the two-day requirement if it is non-strike all. The bill also prohibited the General Assembly from acting on a bill or amendment that “creates an exception to” an existing law if it did not have a public hearing unless two-thirds of the members of each chamber vote to waive the requirement. S.B. 336 died in the Judiciary Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 340 An Act Establishing An Early Childhood Integrated System Of Care directed the departments of Children and Families (DCF), Education, (SDE) and Social Services (DSS), within available appropriations, to develop and implement an early childhood integrated system of care. The system's purpose is to promote competent parenting by addressing health, mental health, and related issues, including substance abuse, domestic violence, maternal depression, and homelessness of children under age 6 and their parents or caregivers. The bill also directed these agencies to establish two regional early childhood integrated system of care programs and the Behavioral Health Partnership to operate and administer them. Senate Amendment "A" modified the plan's contents, added the Department of Developmental Services to the list of state agencies developing the plan, and eliminated the requirement that the departments establish two regional pilot programs. The Senate passed S.B. 340 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 383 An Act Concerning A Nursing Home Bill Of Rights would have made the rights or benefits specified in the nursing home patient's bill of rights inalienable and not subject to being reduced, rescinded or abrogated by contract. Any facility that failed to comply with any provision of this bill of rights would be liable to such patient in a private cause of action for damages in an amount equal to the sum of (1) any actual damage sustained by such patient as a result of such failure, (2) such additional damages as the court may allow, not to exceed one thousand dollars, and (3) in the case of any successful cause of action to enforce liability under the provisions of the bill of rights, the costs of the action and reasonable attorney's fees as determined by the court. S.B. 383 died in the Judiciary Committee.

S.B. No. 385 An Act Concerning Nursing Home Staffing Levels would have imposed higher minimum direct care staffing standards on nursing homes starting January 1, 2009. It required homes that do not meet the standards to report that fact and the surrounding circumstances to the Department of Public Health (DPH) every quarter. It allowed the DPH commissioner to take certain enforcement actions against homes that fail to submit the reports or have a pattern of noncompliance with the minimum standards. It also required DPH to calculate and assess staff-to-resident ratios and resident care needs when conducting an inspection of a nursing home. It did not include enforcement provisions pertaining to these assessments. S.B. 385 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 387 An Act Concerning Oversight Of Alzheimer's Special Care Units Or Programs would have amended the standard disclosure requirements for Alzheimer's special care units or programs. It also increased the number of hours, from three to eight, that each unit or program must annually provide Alzheimer's and dementia-specific training to licensed and registered direct care staff and nurse's aides who provide direct patient care to residents in the units or programs. Finally, the bill required the Department of Public Health (DPH) to adopt regulations on training and staffing requirements, including staff-to patient ratios; annual medical assessment requirements of resident's dementia care needs; design and safety measures; and any additional requirements to ensure resident health, safety, and well being. S.B. 387 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 388 An Act Concerning Direct Care Provider Staffing Levels In Nursing Homes would have required each nursing home facility to have sufficient direct care staff to provide, over a twenty-four-hour period, not less than four hours of direct care per resident. S.B. 388 died in the Appropriations Committee.

S.B. No. 413 An Act Establishing A Community Provider Rescue Fund Account And Community-Based Services Commission would have established a Community Provider Rescue Fund as a separate, non-lapsing General Fund account. Funds from the account would be used as grants to community providers that have purchase-of-service contracts with state agencies to provide health and human services to the agency's clients. The bill would have created a 34-member Community-Based Services Commission to study and make recommendations concerning a long-term funding solution for these providers. The commission would submit a report with any proposed budget recommendations and policy and legislative changes to the governor and General Assembly. The bill authorized up to \$65 million in general obligation bonds for capital improvements for the providers. The bonds would be subject to standard statutory bond issuance procedures and repayment requirements. The bill required the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to make funds from the account available as grants to community providers with which state agencies have purchase of service contracts. These agencies include the departments of Developmental Services (DDS), Children and Families (DCF), Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), Social Services (DSS), Correction (DOC), Public Health (DPH), Judicial Department, and the Children's Trust Fund (CTF). The bill would not appropriate funds to the account, but it permitted the OPM secretary to receive private donations for it. Under the bill, the grants could be used to (1) provide an immediate remedy to budget shortfalls for these community providers, (2) establish a stable funding system for them, and (3) establish a consistent "cost-of-service" adjustment to avoid future budget shortfalls. The commission established by the bill would make recommendations concerning: 1. development of a statewide strategic plan for funding services under purchase-of-service contracts, which would include (a) consistent funding for providing the services and (b) cost-of-living and other fiscal adjustments for making these payments that use an indexing option, such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and a budget to implement it and 2. a budget and plan for stabilizing the service delivery system until indexed payments are allocated. The bill also required the commission to conduct studies, research, and analyses and recommend ways to address "the problem" of funding community providers' services. The bill required the agencies to issue requests for proposals when determining how to allocate the grants. The grant amount could not exceed the project costs. S.B. 413 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 417 An Act Concerning The Establishment Of The Fatality Review Board would have codified, with changes, the Fatality Review Board (FRB) for Persons with Disabilities, which was created by Executive Order 25 in February 2002. The bill's nine-member board would investigate the circumstances surrounding untimely deaths of people with disabilities when the director of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA) determined it was warranted. S.B. 417 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 458 An Act Concerning Linguistic Access In Hospitals And Diversity In The Health Care Workforce Current law requires acute care hospitals to undertake a number of activities to ensure that patients who do not speak English have access to their services. This bill would have required the Department of Public Health (DPH), within existing budgetary resources, to examine hospital compliance with these requirements and report to the Public Health Committee, by January 1, 2010 and biennially thereafter. The Senate passed S.B. 458. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 470 An Act Concerning The Shortage Of Nursing And Allied Health Professionals would have established faculty scholarship-for-service and loan forgiveness programs for nursing and allied health faculty. It also would have established a Connecticut allied health faculty incentive program for higher education institutions that work collaboratively with hospitals to (1) establish or expand programs that prepare individuals to teach in allied health

fields or (2) encourage qualified people to teach allied health programs. S.B. 470 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 478 An Act Prohibiting Copayments For Preventive Care. The original bill would have prohibited health insurance policies from imposing a copayment, deductible, or other out-of-pocket expense (e.g., coinsurance) for preventive care services. It specified that “preventive care services” excluded any services or benefits intended to treat an existing illness, injury, or condition, but included: 1. annual physicals and periodic health evaluations, including tests and diagnostic procedures ordered in connection with them; 2. routine prenatal and well-child care; 3. child and adult immunizations; 4. tobacco cessation programs; and 5. obesity weight-loss programs. Senate Amendment “A” replaced the original bill with a provision that made it an unfair insurance practice for insurers and similar entities to offer incentives to deny claims. The amended bill made it an unfair insurance practice for an insurer, HMO, hospital service corporation, or fraternal benefit society providing individual or group health insurance coverage from offering or providing any incentive, financial or otherwise, to any person (1) for denying health claims or (2) based on the number of health claims he or she denies. The Senate passed S.B. 478 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 483 An Act Promoting Patient Safety And Access To Provider Information By Extending The State Physician Profile To Certain Other Health Care Providers.

Under current law the Department of Public Health (DPH), after consulting with the Connecticut Medical Examining Board and the Connecticut State Medical Society, must collect certain information to create an individual public profile on each physician licensed to practice medicine in Connecticut. The bill would have extended this requirement to dentists, chiropractors, optometrists, podiatrists, naturopaths, dental hygienists, advanced practice registered nurses, and physical therapists. As it must currently do for physicians, it required DPH to consult with the appropriate state board and makes other conforming changes. The profiles would contain information about the health care provider's education and practice and would indicate any disciplinary actions DPH any appropriate state board, or any professional licensing or disciplinary body in another jurisdiction has taken against the health care provider. It would also include any hospital disciplinary actions taken against the provider in the past 10 years. Also, the profile would contain a description of criminal convictions for felonies within the last 10 years. DPH would have an Internet web site so the public could get the profiles. The Senate passed S.B. 483 as amended by Senate Amendments A and B. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 489 An Act Concerning The Right To Organize For All Employees would have provided collective bargaining rights to the following if they work for an employer with three or more employees: 1. private sector employees not covered by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) (such as agricultural workers and all supervisors); 2. state employees, including managers and Legislative Branch employees, who cannot collectively bargain under present law; and 3. municipal and school district employees who do not currently have the right to collectively bargain (elected officials, some department heads, and school district superintendents and assistant superintendents, among others). The bill would have permitted state managers, who are currently exempt from collective bargaining, to unionize. But it provided a mechanism where some managers would be considered bureau heads and thus excluded from collective bargaining. S.B. 489 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 498 An Act Authorizing Bonds Of The State For A Facility In Manchester For Persons With Developmental Disabilities would have authorized that the proceeds of the sale of bonds not exceeding five million dollars, would be used for the purpose of providing a grant-

in-aid to MARC, Inc. for the construction of a new facility that would provide services to persons with developmental disabilities. S.B. 498 died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

S.B. No. 499 An Act Concerning Parking For Persons Who Are Blind And Persons With Disabilities Which Limit Or Impair The Ability To Walk would have established several new requirements with respect to the issuance and use of handicapped parking windshield placards including: 1. requiring anyone issued a placard to have either a Connecticut driver's license or a non-driver photo identification card; 2. requiring a placard to expire and be renewed when the recipient's license or identification card has to be renewed; 3. requiring the newly issued placards to contain additional information; 4. requiring placards to be returned to the motor vehicle commissioner when the recipient moves to another state or dies; 5. establishing a \$ 500 fine for using a placard issued to a deceased person; and 6. requiring a person's certification of eligibility for the credential to be made under penalty for false statement. The bill also required the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner to (1) establish an on-line procedure for members of the public to file complaints of violations of the handicapped parking laws and (2) evaluate alternative enforcement methods and certain other issues related to the handicapped parking laws and submit recommendations to the Transportation Committee. S.B. 499 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 567 An Act Concerning The Connecticut Home-Care Program For The Elderly would have provided personal care assistance services and increased reimbursement rates to providers of home care services under the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly. S.B. 567 died in the Appropriations Committee.

S.B. No. 570 An Act Concerning Telecommuting And High Speed Broadband Access would have exempted certain information technology and telecommunications equipment used by a telecommunications company from the property tax, starting with the assessment year beginning October 1, 2010. The bill established a \$ 2,000 credit against the corporation business tax for each corporation that allows its full-time employees to participate in a telecommuting or work-at-home program. The bill would have required the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to establish, within available appropriations, a comprehensive statewide high-speed Internet deployment strategy and adoption initiative. It required DECD to do so through a private-public partnership. S.B. 570 died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 575 An Act Concerning The Establishment Of A Task Force To Study Day Program Services Offered Through The Department Of Developmental Services would have established a task force to study the day program options provided by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The task force would report its recommendations before July 1, 2009. S.B. 575 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 576 An Act Concerning Patient Access To Laboratory Test Results would have given patients direct access to their medical test results unless the health care provider reasonably determines that such access would be harmful to the patient's physical or mental health. Under the bill, a health care provider who requested that his or her patient undergo medical testing for diagnostic, treatment, or prognosis purposes, would authorize the testing entity to provide the test results directly to the patient. Such direct reporting would not be required if the provider reasonably determined that the information to be provided would be detrimental to the patient's physical or mental health, or might result in the patient harming himself or another. The

provider would have to give the patient the reasons for not authorizing direct access to the test results. S.B. 576 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 577 An Act Concerning The Nursing Home Financial Advisory Committee would have: 1. added the comptroller and the state ombudsman to the seven-member Nursing Home Financial Advisory Committee; 2. made the comptroller the committee's chairperson, instead of the social services (DSS) and public health (DPH) commissioners; 3. expanded the committee's authority concerning the financial solvency of nursing homes and related entities; and 4. updated an existing reporting requirement. The bill would have expanded the committee's authority by allowing it to examine and audit financial and other records related to the operation of any (1) nursing home facility; (2) parent company, subsidiary, affiliate or joint venture, or any combination of a nursing home facility; and (3) nursing facility management services. S.B. 577 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 578 An Act Concerning Licensing Fees Paid By Nurses To The Department Of Public Health would have changed the license renewal period for registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and nurse-midwives from one to two years and reduced the licensing fees paid by these health care professionals. S.B. 578 died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

S.B. No. 600 An Act To Implement The Recommendations Of The Commission On Elected State Officials And Judges would have increased by 3% the salaries of judges and family support magistrates, in addition to the per diem rate of compensation for judge trial referees and family support referees. State law links the salaries of Workers' Compensation Commissioners and judges of Probate Court to the salaries of Superior Court Judges. The most recent salary increase for judges, magistrates and referees occurred on January 1, 2007. S.B. 600 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 617 An Act Concerning Appropriations From Appropriated Funds Other Than The General Fund would have required the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) to conduct a review of certain FY09 non- General Fund appropriations, and report findings. S.B. 617 died on the foot of the Senate Calendar.

S.B. No. 620 An Act Concerning The Expenditures Of State Agencies Providing Public Health, Mental Health And Developmental Services would have required the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to review the programs and services administered or provided by each state agency that provides public health, mental health or developmental services to residents of the state in order to evaluate their effectiveness and benefits and assign priority for their continued funding and submit these findings and recommendations to the Appropriations Committee. S.B. 620 died in the Senate.

S.B. No. 662 An Act Concerning Medicaid Eligibility And Reimbursement would have implemented changes concerning eligibility and reimbursement for the Medicaid program including the establishment of a non-lapsing account to be known as the state Medicaid pending pool account to provide state funds for advance payments to nursing home facilities to cover the cost of care for pending Medicaid applicants. S.B. 662 died in the Appropriations Committee.

S.B. No. 664 An Act Concerning Independent Transportation Networks, would have increased from four to five the number of initial grant recipients that the Department of Social Services (DSS) must select to provide community-based regional transportation systems for the elderly. It also added the requirement that a grantee, to the extent practicable, provide wheelchair

accessible options. Finally, the bill would have prohibited an insurer from refusing to renew or imposing a premium surcharge on an auto liability insurance policy for the sole reason that the insured or any regular operator of the vehicle is a volunteer driver for a community-based regional transportation system. Senate Amendment “A” (1) removed the requirement that the DSS commissioner provide a \$ 25,000 grant to each initial grant recipient for FY 09, (2) made clarifying changes to the requirement that a grantee provide wheelchair accessible options, and (3) added the provision on auto liability insurance. The Senate passed S.B. 664 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 670 An Act Concerning Failure To Remove Snow And Ice From A Motor Vehicle In Operation would have prohibited anyone from driving a vehicle that has more than two inches of ice, snow, or both accumulated on any exterior surface. The prohibition would not have applied to vehicles being driven during a period of snow, sleet, freezing rain, or other precipitation that causes snow or ice to accumulate. Violators would have been subject to a fine of up to \$10 for each square foot of accumulated ice or snow. S.B. 670 died in the Planning and Development Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 673 An Act Concerning Improved Telecommuting Programs For The State's Workforce, as amended by Senate Amendment A, would have (1) required the DAS commissioner to establish the guidelines for telecommuting by state employees within available appropriations; (2) eliminated a telecommuting and work-at-home pilot program for the departments of Developmental Services, Environmental Protection, and Information Technology; (3) eliminated a requirement that arrangements be cost effective; and (4) exempted the programs from collective bargaining. Within available appropriations, the bill would have required, rather than allowed, the DAS commissioner to develop and implement guidelines in cooperation with interested employee organizations (i.e. labor unions). The guidelines would be designed to achieve the following goals: (1) increase worker efficiency and productivity, (2) benefit the environment, and (3) reduce traffic congestion. The Senate passed S.B. 673 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 676 An Act Providing Fairness In Salaries For State Managers, as amended in the Senate, would have required the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner to (1) study the pay plans and salaries affecting managerial and confidential employees subject to the State Personnel Act and (2) identify any salary compression or pay inequities that exist. Senate Amendment “A” eliminated the underlying bill, which required a study on the need to increase the starting salaries of state managerial employees in each management classification to ensure that their salaries are at least 8% greater than the starting salaries of any non-managerial employees they supervise. The Senate passed S.B. 676 as amended by Senate Amendment A. The bill died in the House.

S.B. No. 696 An Act Concerning The Courts Of Probate would have reduced the basis for computing probate fees based on the gross taxable estate by eliminating, for Connecticut residents, (1) life insurance proceeds, (2) the fair market value of any real property or tangible personal property located outside Connecticut, and (3) the amount of any indebtedness secured by a mortgage or lien on real property located in Connecticut. The bill would have required each person who files an appeal to mail serve a copy of the complaint to the court of probate that rendered the order, denial, or decree, rather than serve it on the court. The bill, also, authorized the appointment of a temporary conservator for the limited purpose of obtaining funeral or medical information, and specified what rules of evidence apply in hearings to appoint conservators. S.B. 696 died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee on a referral from the Senate.

S.B. No. 705 An Act Concerning The Execution Of Wills And Codicils would have allowed a will or codicil to be subscribed in the testator's name by some other individual in the testator's conscious presence and at the testator's express direction. Under current law, a will or codicil must be in writing and subscribed by the testator. Also, under current law, every devise or bequest given in any will or codicil to a subscribing witness, or to the witness's husband or wife, is void unless (1) it is legally attested without the signature of such witness or (2) such devisee or legatee is the testator's heir. The bill made these same rules apply to a person who signs a will or codicil for the testator and to his or her spouse. A codicil must be signed and witnessed with the same formalities as those used in executing a will. The Senate recommitted S.B. 705 to the Judiciary Committee and the bill died.

H.B. No. 5019 An Act Making Deficiency Appropriations For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008 reduced FY 08 General Fund appropriations by \$54,307,960 and FY 08 Transportation Fund appropriations by \$1,500,000, for a total all funds appropriation reduction of \$55,807,960. The bill made FY 08 General Fund deficiency appropriations of \$43,875,622, and FY 08 Transportation Fund deficiency appropriations of \$4,500,000, for a total all funds FY 08 deficiency appropriation of \$48,375,622. H.B. 5019 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5021 An Act Making Adjustments To The Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2009. The bill died in the House. (See Budget Section of this report for additional information)

H.B. No. 5029 An Act Concerning The Ethics Code For Lobbyists would have prohibited communicator lobbyists from serving on any state board or commission, including on the board of directors of certain quasi-public agencies that receive state funding. However, lobbyists serving on these boards or commissions on July 1, 2008 could continue to do so until their terms expired. A "communicator lobbyist" is an individual who, on behalf of one or more client lobbyists, receives or agrees to receive compensation, reimbursement, or both, totaling \$ 2,000 or more in any calendar year to communicate or get others to communicate to influence administrative or legislative lobbying. H.B. 5029 died in the House.

HB. No. 5030 An Act Establishing An Electronic Citizen's Forum would have established an electronic Citizen's Forum to receive citizen suggestions about ways to improve state services and required the consumer protection commissioner to establish the forum as part of his department's website. H.B. 5030 died in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 5038 An Act Implementing the Recommendations Of The Hospital Task Force. This bill had several components. It would have 1. required the Department of Social Services (DSS) to study the impact of implementing a federal waiver that would expand Medicaid coverage to include State Administered General Assistance (SAGA)- eligible individuals; 2. required DSS to develop a plan for expedited SAGA edibility for released prisoners; 3. required the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and DSS to identify areas of the state with high utilization of behavioral health hospital emergency department (ED) services and make recommendation to reduce ED demand; 4. required general hospitals to annually develop plans to reduce the number of inpatients with extended ED stays; 5. required DMHAS, DCF, and DSS to identify effective psychiatric emergency assessment or crisis response center models in order to expand service access; 6. modified existing requirements concerning the DPH-developed state health plan, including requiring that it be prepared every five years; 7. required the Office of Health Care Access' (OHCA) statewide health care facility utilization study to be done annually and to

address such factors such as underserved areas and populations, and an assessment of current availability and utilization of various services and facilities; 8. modified requirements for OHCA's statewide health care facilities plan, including an evaluation of unmet needs of at-risk and vulnerable populations; 9. required DMHAS to prepare a multiyear state mental health and substance abuse services plan assessing state residents' behavioral health and the availability of services; and 10. required various departments and individuals to meet to coordinate state efforts on health care workforce activities. H.B. 5038 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5112 An Act Concerning The Retention Of State Jobs would have required the governor to prepare a report listing all state contracts for services performed outside of Connecticut or outside the United States. The report would assess the economic costs and benefits of any outsourced contracts. H.B. 5112 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5124 An Act Concerning Social Worker Services In Nursing Homes And The Qualifications Of Social Workers would have: (1) Required social work designees to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in social work and one-year experience in a health care facility, (2) improved the ratio of social workers to nursing home beds, and (3) changed the reference in the section from “an independent social worker certified pursuant to chapter 383b” to “a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b.” H.B. 5124 died in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 5131 An Act Amending The Statutes Concerning The Department Of Children And Families would have made several changes in statutes applicable to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). It revised, updated, and reorganized DCF's confidential records law. It would have also: 1. permitted DCF to transfer termination of parental rights and guardianship cases from probate to Superior Court and expands the transfer rights of parties to these cases; 2. expressly allowed DCF to temporarily place children with friends and relatives who have been cleared by an FBI instant criminal record check in emergencies, codifying current practice; and 3. made minor changes in the Safe Havens law, which permits parents to turn their newborns over to hospital personnel without facing criminal liability for child abandonment. H.B. 5131 died in the Judiciary Committee. The provisions in H.B. 5131, concerning the confidentiality of records and DCF's ability to share them with the Department of Developmental Services, were amended to S.B. 663. S.B. 663 as amended died in the House.

H.B. No. 5132 An Act Appropriating Funds To The Family Support Council would have provided staff to the Family Support Council. H.B. 5132 in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 5134 An Act Concerning The Early Childhood Education Cabinet would have added 10 members to the 15-member Early Childhood Education Cabinet. The cabinet was established in 2005 to advise on school readiness issues, evaluate current school readiness programs, establish program standards, and develop a workforce development plan in consultation with the Office of Workforce Competitiveness. The Cabinet must also develop and implement annual accountability plans for early child education services by December 1, 2008. H.B. 5134 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5138 An Act Concerning Municipal And State Recycling. The Appropriations Committee substitute bill would have required the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) commissioner to establish and evaluate two pilot recycling programs for municipalities. It required DEP to provide grants for the programs from available resources, and to report findings to a commission the bill created. It required state agencies, within existing resources, to develop

sustainability plans to increase energy efficiency and encourage recycling, and allowed them to pattern these plans on a sustainability plan the commission would have developed.

The original bill required (1) municipalities and private trash haulers that offer customers curbside trash collection to also offer these customers curbside recycling, and (2) the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to (a) establish, fund, and create a commission to evaluate, three pilot recycling programs and (b) encourage residents to use biodegradable products. It would have, also, required public places, such as hotels, supermarkets, sports arenas, restaurants, and movie theaters, to provide accessible recycling receptacles. It also (1) required state agencies to develop sustainability plans to increase energy efficiency and encourage recycling; (2) set minimum size requirements for recycling codes on plastic bottles; (3) authorized conservation officers to enforce the provisions dealing with agency sustainability plans, curbside recycling, public recycling receptacles, and the commingling of trash and recyclable items; and (4) appropriated \$ 12 million to fund DEP's public education and pilot grant programs. H.B. 5138 died in the Government Administration and Elections Committee on a referral from the House.

H.B. No. 5148 **An Act Reestablishing The Department Of Housing** would have reestablished the Department of Housing (DOH), removed all housing related matters from the jurisdiction of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), and made DOH the lead agency on all housing matters. The bill made DOH the successor agency to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Community Affairs. DECD is currently the successor agency. H.B. 5148 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5293 **An Act Concerning Payments In Lieu Of Taxes For Property Of Nonprofit Organizations** would have required the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to determine the amount due, as a state grant in lieu of taxes, to each town in the state in which at least twenty-five per cent of the land is owned by organizations or legal entities exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The grant would be payable to any town under these provisions and would be equal to the total of fifty per cent of the property taxes which would have been paid on such property, except for the exemption applicable to such property, on the assessment list in such town for the assessment date two years prior to the commencement of the state fiscal year in which such grant is payable. H.B. 5293 died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

H.B. No. 5334 **An Act Concerning Timely Medical Treatment For Injured Workers** would have made two changes in workers' compensation law regarding delays of recommended medical treatment. First, it created the presumption that an employer's or insurer's failure to promptly provide treatment recommended by a medical provider is an unreasonable delay without good cause unless a workers' compensation commissioner finds the recommended medical care was neither reasonable or necessary when it was recommended. The commissioner could assess a penalty of up to \$1,000 for each case of delay. Second, the bill required employers who chose to object to a claimant's recommended medical treatment because it is unreasonable or unnecessary (1) to issue a written notice to the employee containing the medical evidence upon which the objection is based and (2) if they are seeking an independent medical examination (IME) to support their view, to schedule it no later than 30 days after receiving the proposed treatment recommendation. If the employer failed to schedule the IME within 30 days, the employee would be entitled to recover any reasonable attorney's fees arising out of his or her claim for the treatment. If the employer's IME concurred with the original treatment recommendation, the employer would have to pay the claimant wage replacement benefits at a rate of 100% of the employee's net wages for the period the treatment was delayed due to the IME request, rather than the regular rate of 75% of net wages. The 100% calculation applied whether the employee

qualified for total or partial incapacity benefits. H.B.5334 died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee on a referral from the House.

H.B. No. 5480 An Act Concerning The Calculation Of Overtime. Under current law, paid holidays are not considered part of an employee's regular pay that is counted toward determining if the employee has worked more than 40 hours in a week and is due overtime pay for hours over 40. The bill would have required that paid holidays count towards determining overtime only for employees who are (1) earning both salary and commission and (2) employed as delivery drivers or sales merchandisers. The original bill required that paid holidays be counted as part of any employee's regular pay that is used to determine if the employee is due overtime pay for working more than 40 hours in a week. It makes the paid holiday count as part of the 40 hours. House Amendment "A" removed the provision in the original bill that counted paid holidays in the overtime calculation for all employees who are not exempt from overtime and changed the effective date from October 1, 2008 to January 1, 2011. The House passed H.B. 5480 as amended by House Amendment A. The bill died in the Senate.

H.B. No. 5482 An Act Increasing The Wage Threshold For Charging An Employer's Account Under The Unemployment Compensation System would have increased, from \$500 to \$2,500, the amount of each employee's wages that is not charged toward an employer's experience account under the unemployment compensation system. This means that if a former employee collects benefits from a work period that includes the first \$2,500 in pay, benefits derived from that \$2,500 would not be added in the employer's experience account. The change would not have affected such employee's eligibility for unemployment compensation. But the longer time not covered by an individual employer's tax rate would be covered by all employers in the form of the unemployment compensation fund solvency tax rate. H.B. 5482 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5490 An Act Concerning Student Health Data would have established an initiative to collect and analyze data concerning the prevalence of pediatric chronic disease and related risk factors in schools. The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, would design and establish an initiative to determine and report the prevalence of pediatric chronic disease and related risk factors, beginning with a pilot initiative and expanding statewide by the 2011-2012 school year. H.B. 5490 died in the Education Committee.

H.B. No. 5495 An Act Concerning The Transition Of Youth From The Care Of The Department Of Children And Families To The Department Of Mental Health And Addiction Services would have required the departments of Children and Families (DCF) and Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) commissioners, within available appropriations, to issue joint annual reports on transition activities for children under DCF care who are likely to need mental health or substance abuse services from DMHAS when they age out of DCF care. H.B. 5495 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5504 An Act Concerning Municipal Lobbying would have expanded the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists to cover lobbyists appearing before political subdivisions of the state. H.B. 5504 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5507 An Act Concerning Ethics. This bill would have: 1. generally permitted state courts to revoke or reduce any retirement or other benefits due to state or municipal officials or employees who commit certain crimes related to their employment; 2. made it a class A misdemeanor for public servants to fail to report a bribe; 3. prohibited unclassified state employees from engaging in political activities during hours they are paid by the state; 4. made

several changes to state codes of ethics such as limiting gift exceptions, prohibiting state contractors from hiring certain former public officials and state employees, restricting the Office of State Ethics' (OSE) authority to issue subpoenas, prohibiting *ex parte* communications during OSE hearings on ethics complaints, limiting Citizens Advisory Board members who can act on ethics complaints, and subjecting the governor's spouse to the code; 5. required the governor to establish a bipartisan committee to recommend disciplinary action against commissioners and deputy commissioners who (a) OSE determines have violated the State Ethics Code or (b) have been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to any crime; 6. required OSE to provide mandatory biennial training to legislators on the Code of Ethics for Public Officials but does not state when it should begin; 7. required that municipal chief executive officers (CEOs) take an oath of office before performing their duties; and 8. made the Office of the Secretary of the State the repository for the CEO's oaths and the oaths of office that other municipal officials are required take before beginning their duties. The bill also would have prohibited legislators from (1) introducing legislation that benefits their employer or (2) working for, or serving on the board of, a quasi-public agency during their term of office. The latter prohibition would not apply to legislators employed by, or serving on the board of, a quasi-public agency on July 1, 2008. H.B. 5507 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5508 An Act Concerning Proof Of Health Insurance Coverage For Children

would have required local and regional boards of education to require all students enrolled under their jurisdiction to provide proof annually that they have health insurance coverage, instead of reporting annually whether they have health insurance. Under current law, the boards must provide program information to parents and guardians of students identified as uninsured. The bill instead would have required the boards to provide program information and an application to each student who does not provide proof of insurance. It required the parent or guardian of such a student to complete the application and submit it to DSS or to the student's school, who would forward it to DSS. H.B. 5508 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the House.

H.B. No. 5514 An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage For Individuals With Epidermolysis Bullosa And For Ostomy Supplies.

The original bill created a separate, non-lapsing account for a prostheses loan program. Under the bill, the account would give loans to people who need to purchase prostheses but for whom insurance does not adequately cover the costs. The bill specified that a loan cannot exceed \$75,000 and is subject to a maximum term of 10 years and an interest rate of prime rate minus one percentage point. By law, health insurance policies must provide coverage for the cost of any non-dental prosthesis, including any maxillo-facial prosthesis used to replace anatomic structures lost during treatment for head and neck tumors or additional appliances essential for the support of such a prosthesis. Coverage must be subject to the same terms and conditions applicable to all other benefits under the policy. But the policy must provide at least a yearly benefit of \$300 for non-dental prosthesis. House Amendment "A" replaced the loan program for purchasing prosthetics in the original bill with requirements that (1) insurers and HMOs designate a case manager to work with an insured diagnosed with epidermolysis bullosa and his or her physician to identify the insured's wound-care needs, (2) certain insurance policies cover treatment and supplies for epidermolysis bullosa, and (3) raise the annual coverage for ostomy appliances and supplies to \$5,000 from \$1,000. The House passed H.B. 5514 as amended by House Amendment A. The bill died in the Senate.

H.B. No. 5519 An Act Concerning Employer Health Insurance Premium Payments For Terminated Employees

would have allowed an employer to elect to not pay premiums for an employee's group health insurance coverage after the person's employment ends for any reason other than layoff. It outlined related requirements and conditions for an insurer, HMO, hospital

or medical service corporation, or fraternal benefit society to credit an employer for prepaid premiums. It specified that a collective bargaining agreement that requires an employer to pay an employee's health insurance premiums past the employee's termination date supersedes its requirement. If there was a conflict between the bill and the agreement, the agreement would control. H.B. 5519 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5525 An Act Amending The Effective Date Of Health Insurance For Children would have moved up the effective date, from January 1, 2009 to July 1, 2008, after which private health insurance policies must incorporate a change enacted in 2007 regarding when a child loses eligibility under a parent's private health insurance policy. Under an individual policy, the 2007 acts require that a child's health insurance coverage continue at least until the policy anniversary date on or after the date the child marries or turns age 26, whichever occurs first. The 2007 acts require group comprehensive health care plans to (1) extend coverage eligibility to unmarried children living in Connecticut who are under age 26 and (2) provide the option for a child to continue coverage to the end of the month following the month in which the child marries or turns age 26. For individual policies and continued coverage under a group comprehensive plan, the 2007 acts require a child to live in Connecticut or, if residing out-of-state, to do so (1) as a full-time student at an accredited school of higher education or (2) with a custodial parent pursuant to a child custody determination. The 2007 acts also eliminate the requirement that the child be dependent on the policyholder or covered employee. H.B. 5525 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the House.

H.B. No. 5531 An Act Adopting The Revised Uniform Arbitration Act would have implemented, with one exception, the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act (RUAA). It codified arbitration rules, standards, and common practices that are currently not regulated by statute, but permitted parties to waive or modify many of them. In this respect, the bill created a statutory default procedure when the parties' arbitration agreement does not otherwise specify one. The bill would have covered: 1. the enforceability of agreements; 2. notice requirements; 3. court jurisdiction and procedures before the completion of an arbitration; 4. the ability to arbitrate; 5. arbitrators' qualifications, information they must disclose, and their powers; 6. arbitration proceedings; and 7. court proceedings after an award has been issued. The bill would have repealed existing general arbitration statutes on October 1, 2009. The repeal of current laws would eliminate an arbitrator's authority to ask courts for legal interpretations during arbitration proceedings. It also would eliminate a method for agreed-upon submissions of pending court cases to binding arbitration. Finally, it would eliminate specific provisions relating to required court filings and judicial disposition procedures, substituting instead the bill's generic language. H.B. 5531 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5540 An Act Concerning Charitable Dental Care would have allowed out-of-state dentists and dental hygienists to provide charitable dental care in Connecticut for a limited time under certain conditions. The care would be uncompensated and provided to medically underserved populations for up to 15 days per year during the "Mission of Mercy" or similar charitable event. Participating out-of-state dentists would be required to have a current license in good standing from another state or U. S. territory and: 1. have professional liability insurance or other indemnity against liability for professional malpractice of at least \$ 500,000 per incident per individual, with an aggregate of at least \$ 1. 5 million; 2. must not represent him or herself as a Connecticut-licensed dentist; 3. only provide care to patients participating in the Mission of Mercy or similar event; and 4. verify to the sponsoring entity of the event that he or she has the required license and malpractice insurance. H.B. 5540 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5542 An Act Concerning The Use Of Telemedicine To Promote Efficiency In The Delivery Of Health Care Services would have promoted the use of telecommunications technology for medical diagnosis and patient care. The bill defined "telemedicine" as the delivery of health care services and any diagnosis, consultation or treatment using interactive audio, interactive video or interactive data communication, and includes the types of services described in subsection (d) of section 20-9 of the general statutes. The bill required a health care provider to have in- person contact with the patient and to obtain verbal and written informed consent from the patient or the patient's legal representative, prior to the delivery of health care services to a patient through telemedicine for the first time. H.B. 5542 died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5592 An Act Concerning Early Childhood Education would have increased, from \$107,000 to \$225,000, the maximum school readiness competitive grant a town or school readiness council can apply for per priority school or town. It allowed grant recipients to receive a grant for one or more spaces in accredited school readiness programs. It also would have allowed the education commissioner to provide grants in excess of the maximum grant amount to any town eligible for the competitive grant. Under current law, the commissioner can do so only for towns with at least two priority schools in their districts. The bill also would have allowed the State Board of Education (SBE) to issue a temporary 90-day teaching certificate in the early childhood education endorsement area at a board of education's request. SBE can already do this for elementary education, middle grades education, secondary academic subjects or fields, special education, and administration and supervision endorsement areas. The existing conditions must be met for the issuance of the endorsement. H.B. 5592 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5617 An Act Making Revisions To The Charter Oak Health Plan, as amended, would have required the Charter Oak Health Plan (COHP) to include comprehensive mental health coverage that is consistent with the state's mental health parity law as it applies to group health insurance plans. House Amendment "A" eliminated everything from the original bill except for the mental health parity provisions. The bill, as amended, would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to ensure that the COHP included comprehensive mental health coverage, which would be consistent with the state's mental health parity law as it pertains to group health insurance plans. Under the parity law, no group insurance policy can establish any terms, conditions, or benefits that place a greater financial burden on an insured person for accessing services to diagnose or treat "mental or nervous" conditions than it would for medical, surgical, or other physical health conditions. The House passed H.B. 5617 as amended by House Amendment A. The bill died in the Senate.

H.B. No. 5618 An Act Concerning Revisions To The HUSKY Plan would have mandated that any contract DSS entered into for HUSKY services would be separate and independent from any contract for providing health care services under the Charter Oak Health Plan. It also prohibited the HUSKY contracts from containing provisions that required a provider, as a condition of participating in HUSKY, to also participate in Charter Oak. The bill would have prohibited DSS from contracting with any managed care organization to deliver services to HUSKY recipients before July 1, 2009. The bill would have required DSS to conduct a study to determine the feasibility and costs of using Medicaid fee-for-service, a non-risk-based contractor, or primary care case management to deliver HUSKY health care services. It would report on the study to the Appropriations and Human Services committees and the Medicaid Managed Care Council. Finally, the bill required DSS to monitor the implementation of the primary care case management pilot program established in 2007 to determine whether this is a more cost-effective model for delivering health care. H.B. 5618 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5625 An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation For Employees Of The Department Of Children And Families Injured As A Result Of Employment would have added Department of Children and Families (DCF) employees to the list of state employees eligible for hazardous duty workers compensation, which means they get 100% of their pay if a work-related injury was related to the hazardous part of their job. The bill specifically made any injury that takes place while performing “child welfare related duties” that are a direct result of the special hazards inherent in such duties qualify for the higher rate of compensation. Some DCF employees get such coverage now if the injury takes place at a state facility that handles clients with “a mental defect.” This is typically interpreted as covering DCF employees who work in a DCF residential facility. H.B. 5625 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the House.

H.B. No. 5626 An Act Clarifying The Handling Of Workers' Compensation Claims would have permitted civil actions against self-insured employers, insurers, and third-party administrators to address situations involving (1) breach of good faith and fair dealing in the handling of workers' compensation claims or (2) a violation of the unfair and prohibited practices chapter in insurance law. Under state law, the workers' compensation system is the exclusive remedy for employees seeking compensation for work-related injuries. H.B. 5626 died in the Judiciary Committee on a referral from the House.

H.B. No. 5637 An Act Concerning Local Review Of Community Residences In Multifamily Buildings would have changed some of the rules municipalities must follow when regulating state-licensed community residences and child-care residential facilities. Community residences house six or fewer people who (1) have mental retardation or (2) are receiving mental health and addiction services, plus support staff. The staff housed in the residences for the latter must be paid for or provided by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Child-care residential facilities house six or fewer children with mental or physical disabilities and support staff. The bill would have prohibited buildings or structures housing community residences and child-care facilities from being used or occupied without a certificate of occupancy. The certificate would be issued by the building official and would certify that the building, structure, or work done under a building permit substantially conforms to the building code and regulations. The building official would notify the municipality's chief executive officer when issuing certificates for these residences. The bill would have required ordinances establishing neighborhood revitalization zone (NRZ) committees to prohibit them from commenting on proposed community residences. NRZ committees operate under ordinances that authorize them to prepare neighborhood revitalization plans and oversee their implementation. Lastly, the bill would have required zoning commissions to treat multifamily buildings containing community residences (but not child-care residential facilities) no differently than other multifamily buildings. The law imposed a similar requirement with respect to single-family homes used as community residences and child-care residential facilities. H.B. 5637 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5689 An Act Allowing The Sale Of Group Specified Disease Policies, as amended, by removing “specified disease” policies from certain exemptions within various definitions in the insurance statutes would have, (1) permitted insurers to issue specified disease policies in Connecticut; (2) required such policies to comply with existing law regarding coverage for preexisting conditions; and (3) required insurers issuing such policies, as a condition of transacting business in Connecticut, to also issue “comprehensive health care plans” to certain people and employers. It would have required the insurance commissioner to adopt regulations by January 1, 2009 to establish minimum standards for specified disease policies. The bill, as amended, prohibited a group or individual health insurance plan from coordinating benefits, or otherwise reducing benefit payments, because a person covered under its terms is also covered

by or receiving benefits from a group specified disease policy that was delivered, issued, renewed, amended, or continued in Connecticut. Under the bill, if a person were covered under both a group specified disease policy and another health insurance plan, each plan would adjudicate claims and pay benefits without considering what the other policy is paying. House Amendment “A” (1) struck the underlying bill, (2) replaced it with provisions on the same topic, allowing the sale of specified disease policies in Connecticut in accordance with regulations that the commissioner would adopt, and (3) changed the effective date from January 1, 2009 to upon passage. The House passed H.B. 5689 as amended by House Amendment A. The bill died in the Senate.

H.B. No. 5690 An Act Concerning The Freedom Of Information Act would have made changes in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as it applied to a person (e.g., entity) performing a governmental function pursuant to a legally authorized contract of more than \$2.5 million with a public agency. By law, the contract must provide that the (1) public agency is entitled to copies of the entity's records and files related to performance of the governmental function and (2) entity's records and files are subject to FOIA and public disclosure. The bill would have exempted from these disclosure requirements the entity's records or files (1) that were related to programs and functions but were not created for the purpose of performing a governmental function or (2) were specifically exempted from disclosure under a contract to provide managed care or administrative services. The bill would have permitted an entity performing a governmental function to assert a statutory exemption from having to disclose requested records or files. If an entity made such an assertion, the bill would have prohibited the public agency from disclosing the records and files unless the Freedom of Information Commission ordered it to do so. The bill required that a contract between the Department of Social Services (DSS) and (1) a managed care organization (MCO) for managed care or administrative services or (2) another entity for administrative services would provide that records and files created for the purpose of performing the contracted governmental function were subject to disclosure. It specified that these records or files include rates an MCO pays to Medicaid managed care service providers. H.B. 5690 died in the Government Administration and Elections Committee on a referral from the House.

H.B. No. 5700 An Act Concerning A Change In Affirmative Action Officers Reporting Requirements And Organization would have required the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to audit the duties, independence, and authority of state agency affirmative action officers (AAO). The bill did not provide standards for DAS to use in such audits. By law, each state agency, department, board, or commission must designate an AAO, who must investigate all complaints of discrimination made against the entity and report all findings and recommendations to the entity's commissioner or director for proper action. The GAE Committee eliminated the requirement in the original bill that would have exempted any identifying record or information in an AAO's investigation from state Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) disclosure. By law, personnel matters are exempt from FOIA disclosure. H.B. 5700 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5709 An Act Concerning Access To Quality And Affordable Health Care would have permitted an insurer or other entity (e.g., HMO), if delivering, issuing, renewing, continuing, or amending individual health insurance policies or certificates on or after January 1, 2009, to establish up to five plans that (1) would be exempt from Connecticut's health insurance mandates and (2) would follow one of two formats. It required the insurance commissioner to approve the plans. It also would have authorized the commissioner to approve group health insurance policies and certificates that did not include all of Connecticut's mandated benefits if they were available only to Connecticut's “ineligible population. ” The bill defined this

population as independent contractors and part-time, seasonal, and retired employees who were not otherwise eligible for group health insurance. H.B. 5709 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5721 An Act Establishing The Connecticut Healthy Steps Program would have established the Connecticut Healthy Steps Program, which would consist of numerous health insurance requirements, HUSKY program changes, and public health initiatives. It would have established the (1) Health Care Reform Commission, (2) Connecticut Connector program, (3) Connecticut Individual Health Reinsurance Pool, (4) Healthy Lifestyles subcommittee, (5) Connecticut Health Quality Partnership, (6) a tax credit for employers who offer health insurance to employees, (7) a health savings account incentive program, and (8) a premium subsidy program. It authorized a copayment for Medicaid recipients who use an emergency room for non-emergent services, and required a study of Connecticut's uninsured residents and health care programs available to them. H.B. 5721 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the House.

H.B. No. 5727 An Act Concerning The Workers' Compensation Commission And Standards For Medical Treatment would have given a workers' compensation commissioner the power to (1) fully review a decision to provide or deny medical care and (2) determine whether such care is reasonable or necessary. By law, if a commissioner finds an insurer or employer caused an undue delay of wage loss payments through its own fault or neglect, the commissioner can order them to pay interest penalties and reasonable attorney's fees. The bill also allowed the commissioner to make such a ruling for undue delays of medical treatment. H.B. 5727 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5735 An Act Concerning Individuals Who Transport Patients Or Clients Under The Care, Control Or Custody Of A State Agency, And The Vehicles Used By Such Individuals To Provide Transportation Services would have required anyone a state agency uses to transport patients or clients in the agency's care, custody, or control to have a valid driver's license for the type of vehicle being operated. It would have prohibited such a driver from operating in this capacity for a state agency if he has any motor vehicle infractions or moving violations during the year before driving for the agency. The bill also required the "state" to (1) review for compliance every six months the driving record of anyone performing these driving functions and (2) perform monthly inspections of the vehicles used to transport the clients or patients to assure seats, seat belts, and other required safety equipment function properly. Finally, the bill required these drivers to be trained properly fasten seat belts on disabled passengers, especially those in wheelchairs or who cannot properly fasten the belts themselves. The training procedures would be written and given to the driver. Before driving a disabled person, the driver would have to review them and demonstrate their proper implementation. H.B. 5735 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the House.

H.B. No. 5755 An Act Concerning A Requirement Of Instruction In Social And Emotional Development And Learning Of Children As Part Of Teacher Preparation would have required any candidate in a program of teacher preparation leading to professional certification to complete coursework instruction in the relationship between a child's social and emotional development and learning. H.B. 5755 died in the Education Committee.

H.B. No. 5791 An Act Concerning A Single Point Of Entry For Long-Term Care would have required the Department Social Services' (DSS), Aging Services Division (DES) and Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) to establish a statewide single point of entry system to provide information, referral, and screening for individuals seeking long-term care. It also made changes to the state's long-term care website. Under the bill, DES and BRS would collaborate

with the Long-Term Care Advisory Council and members of the public to divide the state into geographic service areas and designate a center for independent living and an area agency on aging to serve as single point of entry agencies in each of these areas. The goal of the single point of entry system is to allow an individual to obtain standardized information on long-term care services from each single point of entry agency and to promote consumer choice of long-term care options. H.B. 5791 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5793 An Act Concerning Grants For Respite Care Services For Caretakers Of Individuals With Alzheimer's Disease would have increased, from \$3,000 to \$5,000, the annual amount of respite service grants that an individual could receive under the Department of Social Services (DSS) Alzheimer's respite care program. This program, which DSS runs within available appropriations, is available to an individual with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, provided his or her (1) annual income is no higher than \$30,000 and (2) liquid assets do not exceed \$80,000. The DSS commissioner could require a co-payment but may waive it if it creates a hardship. H.B. 5793 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5794 An Act Improving Nursing Staffing Levels And Enforcement. This bill would have: 1. phased in higher minimum direct care staffing standards in chronic and convalescent nursing homes (CCNH) over three years starting October 1, 2008; 2. required the Department of Public Health (DPH), when inspecting homes, to consider compliance with direct care staffing standards; 3. required noncompliant homes to meet new reporting requirements; 4. allowed the Department of Social Services (DSS) to recover from noncompliant homes all or part of the Medicaid funding it gave them to increase direct care staffing; 5. required homes to publicly disclose certain information about direct care staffing schedules and ratios starting May 1, 2009; and 6. directed DPH to adopt implementing regulations. The bill would have applied only to CCNHs, which provide skilled nursing care. H.B. 5794 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5796 An Act Concerning Eligibility For The Federal Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Program And The Qualifying Individual Program would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS) to increase the amount of income it disregards when determining an individual's eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). The disregard amount would have to effectively move the person's income level up to the level that applies in the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract to the Elderly and Disabled (ConnPACE) program. By equalizing the income levels, the bill would enable more people to qualify for the MSP which, consequently, automatically makes them eligible for Medicare Part D low-income subsidies. H.B. 5796 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5797 An Act Concerning The Availability Of Qualified Interpreter Services would have established the specific circumstances in which someone who is deaf or hearing impaired has the right to interpreter services and when they must be provided. It required (1) these services in any criminal or civil action involving someone who is deaf or hearing impaired and (2) depending on the situation, law enforcement agencies to either procure, or make reasonable efforts to procure, them when conducting certain investigations. Under the bill a person is deaf or hearing impaired if he or she has significant hearing loss and whose only effective mode of communication is American Sign Language (ASL) or a variant. House Amendment "A" required law enforcement agencies to provide interpreters, rather than require reasonable efforts to provide them, to (1) parents of a suspect who is under 16 and (2) older suspects who have not waived their right to them. It also defined deaf or hearing impaired individuals as those for whom ASL is their only effective mode of communication, rather than their primary mode of communicating. The House passed H.B. 5797 as amended by House Amendment A. The bill died in the Senate.

H.B. No. 5810 An Act Concerning The Provision Of Behavioral Health Services In Emergency Rooms would have required the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Social Services to establish a two-year behavioral health services pilot program in up to five regions of the state that would develop and implement innovative methods for improving emergency department outcomes for adults with behavioral health needs. The methods for improving emergency department outcomes would include 1. entering into memoranda of understanding with providers of emergency mobile psychiatric services and other community-based behavioral health services for adults who are experiencing psychiatric or behavioral health crises; 2. collaborating with community-based behavioral health service providers and family members to assist in the development and implementation of crisis prevention plans; 3. developing and implementing hospital protocols for safe and appropriate expedited medical clearance of psychiatric patients who are eighteen years of age or older in the emergency department; and 4. developing and implementing hospital protocols that allow community-based behavioral health providers to provide on-site assistance to hospital emergency departments in evaluating, treating and, if necessary, placing adults in appropriate community-based behavioral health programs. H.B. 5810 died in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 5816 An Act Concerning Internet Security would have required the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to develop and operate a single, searchable state expenditure website accessible by the public at no cost. The website would include data for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and subsequent fiscal years. The bill required the governor to appoint a chief information security officer and specified the officer's duties. It required each agency, by the start of each fiscal year, to develop an information security plan using the information security policies, standards, and guidelines the officer develops, and specified the contents of the plans and the consequences if the plans were not developed on time. H.B.5816 died in the Appropriations Committee on a referral from the House.

H.B. No. 5846 An Act Concerning The Expenditures Of State Agencies Providing Social Services would have required the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to review programs administered by state agencies that provide social services and to report its findings to the General Assembly. H.B. 5846 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5847 An Act Concerning Appropriations from the General Fund would have required the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) to conduct a review of certain FY09 General Fund appropriations, and report findings. H.B. 5847 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5861 An Act Concerning Mentally Ill Individuals In Nursing Homes would have required the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to establish minimal reasonable standards for the care and treatment of persons who are mentally ill who reside in nursing facilities. Such standards would address: 1. personnel qualifications and training requirements, 2. the types and frequency of assessments and reassessments of persons who are mentally ill, 3. medication administration protocols, 4. psychiatric rehabilitation services, crises services and personal care assistance. A nursing facility that admits persons who are mentally ill would annually report to the Department of Public Health that the facility satisfies the minimal reasonable standards for the care and treatment of such persons. H.B. 5861 died in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 5864 An Act Concerning A Nursing Home Improvement Plan would have: 1. required a nursing home, as a condition of continued licensure by the Department of Public Health (DPH), to develop a nurse staffing plan and establish a staffing committee to help prepare

it; 2. phased in new minimum nurse staffing levels for nursing homes based on an hours per day of direct care per resident standard that must be maintained over a 24 hour period; 3. required the Department of Social Services (DSS), in consultation with DPH, to produce an annual inventory of nursing home beds in the state; and 4. required DSS, in reviewing nursing home certificate of need (CON) applications, to consider additional factors such as the inventory required, the nursing facility's age, and models of long-term care. H.B. 5864 died in the House as amended by House Amendment A.

H.B. No. 5887 An Act Concerning Payment Of Personal Service Contracts would have required state personal service and purchase of service contracts to contain provisions setting deadlines for the agency rejecting or awarding a contract and making a payment once contracted services are provided. Specifically, the bill required these contracts, including those with health and human services providers, to specify that the contracting agency would (1) approve or reject the contract within 30 days after a contractor has accepted and returned it and (2) pay any amount due under the contract for services rendered within 30 days after the agency receives a written demand for payment. The bill did not state whether the agency must pay the contract price regardless of the quality or timeliness of services provided. H.B. 5887 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5896 An Act Concerning The Publication Of State Agency Regulations would have required the Department of Information Technology, in consultation with the Commission on Official Legal Publications, to develop a computer program to enable state agencies to post on their websites those regulations the commission publishes in the *Connecticut Law Journal*. The bill required each state agency to post on its website its regulations that the Commission on Official Legal Publications publishes in the *Connecticut Law Journal*. By January 1, 2010, each agency would be required to post all of its regulations that are in effect. H.B. 5896 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5898 An Act Concerning Affirmative Action Personnel Of State Agencies would have required the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) to conduct a study to evaluate the need to establish an Office of Diversity Ombudsman to oversee the affirmative action officers of each state agency. CHRO would have to contract with a consultant to do this study. H.B. 5898 died in the House.

H.B. No. 5908 An Act Concerning Proceedings And Operations Of The Department Of Children And Families would have required courts to look for suitable caretaker relatives in the early stages of cases where children have been, or are at risk of being, removed from their homes due to allegations of abuse or neglect. It would have allowed a parent who is the subject of the abuse or neglect charges to ask the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner to investigate placing the child with relatives and, where practicable, require the commissioner to provide a report on a relative's suitability at the first court hearing in the case. It would have established court procedures for making placement decisions when a relative seeks custody and created a rebuttable presumption that placing a child with a relative is in the child's best interests. The original bill also would have: 1. required local approval before state agencies could license or contract with residential facilities formerly licensed by DCF; and 2. required DCF residential facility contracts to include provisions requiring compliance with state statutes, regulations, and local ordinances concerning noise levels and resident safety. House Amendment "A" replaced the original bill. It (1) struck provisions in the original bill concerning local approval requirements for agencies taking over facilities formerly licensed by DCF and mandatory terms for DCF facility contracts, (2) modified the provisions concerning relative placements, and (3) added a provision requiring the Department of Correction (DOC) to notify local officials when it contracts to operate a residential facility that was formerly licensed by DCF. House Amendment

“B” eliminated the provision concerning DOC in House Amendment A. House Amendment “C” added the provision requiring DCF to notify a child's adoptive parents about relatives living in Connecticut. The House passed H.B. 5908 as amended by House Amendments A, B and C. H.B. 5908 died in the Senate.

H.B. No. 5910 An Act Concerning Legislative Oversight Of The Department Of Social Services would have expanded legislative oversight of the Department of Social Services' (DSS) regulation adoption process. It would have 1. prohibited DSS from operating programs while in the process of adopting them in regulation, and (2) required DSS to provide copies of all regulations to the Human Services Committee at the same time it submitted them to the Regulations Review Committee. It also required DSS to submit copies of the regulations to certain oversight bodies for their review when submitting them to Regulations Review. H.B. 5910 died in the House.

BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS AND WERE NOT REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE:

S.B. No. 6 An Act Concerning Hospice Services Under The Medicaid Program, to include hospice services as a covered service under the Medicaid program. The bill died in the Select Committee on Aging.

S.B. No. 9 An Act Concerning Oversight Of State Agency Property Loss Reporting, to improve oversight of property loss reporting by state agencies. The bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

S.B. No. 19 An Act Concerning A Reduction To State Licensing Fees For Nurses, to reduce the professional licensing fees paid by nurses to the Department of Public Health to levels that were in effect on June 30, 2007. The bill died in the Public Health Committee.

S.B. No. 20 An Act Concerning A Deduction From The Personal Income Tax For Medical Expenses And Health Insurance, to provide financial relief to individuals burdened by the high cost of health care and health care insurance. The bill died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

S.B. No. 59 An Act Concerning Impact Statements For Major Layoffs Or Dismissals Of State Employees, to require the submission of impact statement to the General Assembly prior to any major layoff or dismissal of state employees. The bill died in the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

S.B. No. 60 An Act Concerning Bullying In The Workplace, to provide a private right of action against bullying in the workplace. The bill died in the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

S.B. No. 61 An Act Concerning Protection For Whistleblowers, to provide additional protection for whistleblowers who may be subject to retaliation by their employers through grants of additional authority for the Attorney General and human rights hearing referees. The bill died in the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

S.B. No. 63 An Act Concerning Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder And The Workers Compensation Act, to reinsert the post-traumatic stress disorder clause into the Workers' Compensation Act. The bill died in the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

S.B. No. 79 An Act Concerning An Exemption From The Income Tax For Pension And Social Security Income, to exempt pension and Social Security income from the state income tax. The bill died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

S.B. No. 83 An Act Concerning Coverage For Hospice Services Under Medicaid, to include hospice services under the Medicaid program. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

S.B. No. 84 An Act Concerning Expansion Of The State-Funded Home Care Pilot Program For The Disabled, to permit an additional ten persons to participate in the home care pilot program for the disabled and to increase the asset limit. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

S.B. No. 86 An Act Concerning An Exemption From The State Income Tax For Premiums Paid On Health And Long-Term Care Insurance Plans, to allow taxpayers to deduct the cost of health and long-term care insurance policies from their income for state income tax purposes. The bill died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

S.B. No. 92 An Act Concerning The Twenty-Seventh Payroll Period, to establish and fund a reserve account to pay for the twenty-seventh payroll period occurring in fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. The bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

S.B. No. 94 An Act Concerning Definitions Pertaining To The Spending Cap, to mandate compliance with the constitutional directive that definitions pertaining to the spending cap be adopted by a super majority of the General Assembly. The bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

S.B. No. 105 An Act Concerning The Income Tax On Pensions And Social Security Income, to eliminate the income tax on pension income and Social Security. The bill died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

S.B. No. 149 An Act Providing Funds For Supportive Housing, to provide funding for six hundred fifty units of additional supportive housing. The bill died in the Select Committee on Housing.

S.B. No. 166 An Act Requiring A Cost-Benefit Analysis Of Health Insurance Benefits Mandated In This State, to require the Insurance Commissioner to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of health insurance benefits mandated in this state. The bill died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

S.B. No. 171 An Act Extending Health Insurance Incontestability To Group Health Insurance Plans, to extend the two-year incontestability provision in individual health insurance contracts to group health insurance contracts. The bill died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

S.B. No. 185 An Act Concerning Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, to provide funding for the phasing in of the use of generally accepted accounting principles for state financial statements and the state budget, and to require the Governor to include in the annual

budget message the total annualized cost to the state of not adhering to such generally accepted accounting principles. The bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

S.B. No. 231 An Act Concerning Special Education Funding, to provide additional revenue to municipalities to meet the costly special education mandate. The bill died in the Education Committee.

S.B. No. 233 An Act Authorizing Bonds Of The State For A Family Resource Center In Windsor Locks And To Build And Expand A Birth-To-Three And Prekindergarten Facility, to provide funding to Windsor Locks for the family resource center at North Street School and to expand a birth-to-three and prekindergarten facility. The bill died in the Education Committee.

S.B. No. 265 An Act Providing For A Reduction In State Licensing Fees For Nurses, to reduce the professional licensing fees paid to by nurses to the Department of Public Health to the levels that were in effect on June 30, 2007. The bill died in the Public Health Committee.

S.B. No. 276 An Act Expanding Insurance Coverage For Hearing Aids For Children, to expand insurance coverage for hearing aids for children from twelve years of age or younger to eighteen years of age or younger. The bill died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

S.B. No. 309 An Act Concerning Certain Health Insurance Mandates, to reduce the cost of health insurance by removing certain mandates. The bill died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee on a failed JF motion.

S.B. No. 364 An Act Requiring The State Building Code Be Revised To Incorporate Revisions To The National Electrical Code, to require the State Building Code to be updated to incorporate revisions to the National Electrical Code, and to require the state to continually adopt such revisions.
The bill died in the Public Safety and Security Committee.

S.B. No. 381 An Act Concerning Oversight Of Homemaker-Companion Agencies, to protect seniors from abuse or neglect by providing increased oversight of homemaker-companion agencies and their employees. The bill died in the Select Committee on Aging.

S.B. No. 384 An Act Concerning Accreditation Of Nursing Home Facilities, to require accreditation of nursing home facilities. The bill died in the Select Committee on Aging.

S.B. No. 445 An Act Concerning Permanent Absentee Ballot Status, to establish a system for the automatic mailing of absentee ballots to persons who are permanently disabled and unable to go to the polling place on election day. The bill died in the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

S.B. No. 456 An Act Concerning A Private Right Of Action Against A Health Care Provider Under The Workers' Compensation Act, to allow an injured employee to have a private right of action against a health care provider for reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenditures made for medical care as a result of the employees workers' compensation claim. The bill died in the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

S.B. No. 472 An Act Concerning Hospitalizations, to prohibit insurers from requiring that an insured be hospitalized for a certain number of days before coverage will be provided. The bill died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

S.B. No. 560 An Act Concerning Fair And Adequate Hospital Reimbursement, to establish fair reimbursement rates for hospital services provided under the Medicaid and State-Administered General Assistance programs. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

S.B. No. 562 An Act Concerning Increased Access To The Medicaid Program For The Medically Needy Elderly And Disabled, to require the Commissioner of Social Services to exercise existing federal options that permit the use of a less restrictive methodology in determining the income limit when making Medicaid eligibility determinations for persons who are aged, blind or disabled. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

S.B. No. 563 An Act Concerning Expansion Of Assisted Living Services And Adult Care Options, to expand assisted living services for the elderly to reduce state expenditures on nursing home care and increase options for the elderly to age in place. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

S.B. No. 564 An Act Concerning Services For Persons With Mental Health Needs, to increase access to care for children and adults with mental health needs. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

S.B. No. 598 An Act Concerning The Establishment Of An Account To Fund The Twenty-Seventh State Payroll Period, to establish an account for payment of each twenty-seventh payroll. Requested by the State Comptroller. The bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

S.B. No. 635 An Act Concerning Electronic Medical Records, to ensure that the state-wide health information technology plan is developed in a timely fashion and that such plan promotes the use of data standards that allow for interstate operability. The bill died in the Public Health Committee.

S.B. No. 669 An Act Concerning Living Wills, to revise provisions regarding living wills and other advance health care directives. The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.

S.B. No. 675 An Act Concerning The Extension Of Lobbyist Restrictions To Certain State Employees, to extend lobbying restrictions and requirements contained under the code of ethics to state employees who engage in lobbying. The bill died in the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

S.B. No. 686 An Act Concerning The Applicability Of Certain State Contracting Requirements, to provide that certain state contracting requirements do not apply to contracts between the state and a municipality or between the state and the federal government. The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.

S.B. No. 698 An Act Concerning The Calculation, Reduction And Waiver Of Probate Fees, to (1) exempt out-of-state property and life insurance proceeds from the calculation of the gross estate for the purpose of calculating statutory probate fees, (2) permit the probate courts, in consultation with the Probate Court Administrator and based on the administrator's guidelines, to reduce or waive statutory probate fees for estates with no cash assets, and (3) permit such changes to be applied to outstanding probate fees. The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.

H.B. No. 5002 An Act Concerning Cost-Of-Living Adjustments For Private Providers Contracting With The State, to provide a three per cent rate increase to private providers contracting with the state in appreciation of the services provided to the state's less fortunate citizens. The bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 5004 An Act Exempting Pensions And Social Security Income From The State Income Tax, to provide more income to individuals on pensions or Social Security. The bill died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

H.B. No. 5009 An Act Concerning Medicaid Eligibility For Hospice Care, to include hospice services under the Medicaid program, which will save the state money. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5055 An Act Concerning Coverage Of Podiatry Services Under The Medicaid Program, to include podiatry services among the covered optional services under the Medicaid program. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5066 An Act Exempting Military And Civil Service Pensions From The State Income Tax, to recognize the special career contributions of veterans and federal, state and municipal civil service retirees. The bill died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

H.B. No. 5067 An Act Concerning The Taxation Of Retirement Income, to allow recipients of retirement income to retain such income without tax liability. The bill died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

H.B. No. 5070 An Act Increasing The Funding For Nursing Scholarships, to address the nursing shortage by providing scholarships for nursing students. The bill died in the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

H.B. No. 5072 An Act Improving Nurse Staffing Ratios' to improve nursing staffing levels in chronic and convalescent nursing homes, to provide greater enforcement and accountability measures for failure to comply with minimum staffing standards and to improve public awareness of minimum nursing staffing standards. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5088 An Act Concerning Hospice Services Coverage Under Medicaid, to include hospice services under the Medicaid program. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5089 An Act Concerning Hospice Services Under The Medicaid Program, to include hospice services under the Medicaid program to provide Medicaid patients with the right to end life with respect and dignity. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5090 An Act Concerning The Rate Of Reimbursement For Long-Term Care Facilities, to ensure the continued viability of rest homes with nursing supervision, chronic and convalescent nursing homes and intermediate care facilities, and create future cost savings. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5092 An Act Appropriating Funds For The Money Follows The Person Program, to allow more people to take advantage of the money follows the person program. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5093 An Act Concerning A State Grant In Lieu Of Taxes For Property Owned By Nonprofit Human Services Organizations, to lessen the financial burden on municipalities that have substantial loss of tax revenue due to property owned by tax-exempt organizations. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5173 An Act Concerning Full Funding Of The State Employees' Retirement System, to fully fund the State Employees' Retirement system to an actuarially sound level. The bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 5175 An Act Expanding The State Employee Health Insurance Plan, to establish a state health pool to ensure quality, affordable healthcare for all Connecticut residents. The bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 5176 An Act Concerning Increased Access To The State Employees' Health Insurance Plan, to allow individuals who are self-employed, employed by small businesses or employed by nonprofit organizations and who are without access to affordable health insurance the ability to enroll in the state employees' health insurance plan. The bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 5203 An Act Concerning Free Entrance To State Parks For The Disabled, to allow the disabled free access to state parks and recreation areas. The bill died in the Environment Committee.

H.B. No. 5248 An Act Concerning The Income Tax Treatment Of Pensions And Social Security, to remove pension and Social Security income from personal income tax calculations. The bill died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

H.B. No. 5273 An Act Concerning Medicaid Income Eligibility Requirements For The Aged, Blind Or Disabled, to require the Commissioner of Social Services to exercise existing federal options that permit the use of a less restrictive methodology in determining the income limit when making Medicaid eligibility determinations for persons who aged, blind or disabled. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5283 An Act Increasing Tuition Reimbursement Rates For General Assembly Employees, to provide a greater incentive for legislative employees to seek further professional development, maintain their employment with the General Assembly and improve their level of service to the General Assembly and legislative constituents. Higher education costs have increased significantly in recent years, but tuition reimbursement rates for legislative employees have not been adjusted accordingly. The bill died in the Joint Committee on Legislative Management.

H.B. No. 5298 An Act Concerning A Cost-Of-Living Adjustment For Not-For-Profit Providers Who Provide Services On Behalf Of State Agencies, to assist not-for-profit providers who contract with state agencies by providing a cost-of-living adjustment to such providers to ensure that quality services are delivered to the citizens of the state. The bill died in the Public Health Committee.

H.B. No. 5299 An Act Reducing State Licensing Fees Paid By Nurses, to reduce the burden on nurses that is created by increasing nursing license renewal fees during a time when there is a nursing shortage. The bill died in the Public Health Committee.

H.B. No. 5302 An Act Providing For A Rate Increase To Private Not-For-Profit Providers Who Contract With The State To Provide Mental Health And Addiction Support Services, to provide a five per cent rate increase to private not-for-profit providers who contract with the state to provide mental health and addiction services. The bill died in the Public Health Committee.

H.B. No. 5348 An Act Concerning The Rate Of Reimbursement For Skilled Nursing Visits Provided By Home Health Care Agencies And Homemaker-Home Health Aide Agencies, to increase reimbursement for skilled nursing visits provided by home health care agencies and homemaker-home health aide agencies. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5356 An Act Concerning Reimbursement For Special Education Costs, to establish a goal that the state reimburse municipalities for fifty per cent of special education costs. The bill died in the Education Committee.

H.B. No. 5360 An Act Concerning Special Education, to transfer the responsibility and cost of all special education students to the state to reduce unpredictable local costs and provide a uniform standard of education to special needs children. The bill died in the Education Committee.

H.B. No. 5366 An Act Concerning Special Education Funding, to increase the amount the state pays municipalities for costs of special education. The bill died in the Education Committee.

H.B. No. 5367 An Act Concerning Special Education Funding, to reduce the inequities in special education funding. The bill died in the Education Committee.

H.B. No. 5369 An Act Concerning The Reimbursement Threshold For Special Education Costs, to reduce the reimbursement threshold for special education costs to two and one-half times the average pupil cost. The bill died in the Education Committee.

H.B. No. 5377 An Act Concerning Reimbursement Of Special Education Costs, to reduce towns' burden caused by unanticipated costs. The bill died in the Education Committee.

H.B. No. 5384 An Act Concerning Special Education Costs Reimbursement, to lower the state threshold for reimbursement of special education costs to a maximum of two and one-half times the average per pupil educational costs. The bill died in the Education Committee.

H.B. No. 5386 An Act Concerning The Excess Cost Grant For Special Education, to fully fund the special education excess cost grant at three times the average per pupil cost. The bill died in the Education Committee.

H.B. No. 5417 An Act Appropriating Funds For Long-Term Care, to increase funding for Medicaid services for long-term care facilities. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5418 An Act Providing State Grants In Lieu Of Taxes For Certain Nonprofit Human Service Organizations, to provide property tax relief to communities who provide services to nonprofit human service organizations who are tax exempt. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5481 An Act Concerning State Employee Examinations, to prevent state employees who have passed examinations for fitness for a specified class, occupational group or progression level from having to retake such examination on a yearly basis. The bill died in the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

H.B. No. 5496 An Act Concerning Agency Assistance, to prevent agencies of the state to provide vague, misleading or insufficient information to persons seeking assistance of such agency. The bill died in the Select Committee on Children.

H.B. No. 5527 An Act Providing Insurance Coverage For Prostheses, to provide insurance coverage for prostheses. The bill died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

H.B. No. 5528 An Act Concerning The Freedom Of Information Act, to: (1) Move the existing requirement that public agencies maintain a record of their proceedings to the appropriate section of the Freedom of Information Act, (2) ensure public access to court records, other than those records that directly relate to judicial decision-making in individual court cases, and (3) treat governmental employees equally under the Freedom of Information Act by extending to all governmental employees the limitation on disclosure of their residential addresses under the Freedom of Information Act. The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.

H.B. No. 5534 An Act Prohibiting Discrimination On The Basis Of Mental Disability In State Contracts, to require a state contractor to agree and warrant that, in the performance of such contract, such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person on the basis of mental disability unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved. The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.

H.B. No. 5559 An Act Appropriating Funds For A Scholarship For Nursing And Emergency Medical Technician Students, to encourage people to enter into the nursing and emergency medical technical fields so that the state can continue to provide quality healthcare to those in need. The bill died in the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

H.B. No. 5564 An Act Concerning Appropriations To The Department Of Developmental Services For Client Services, to ensure the viability of private providers and address the anticipated need for increased services from the Department of Developmental Services in a way that is most cost effective for the state. The bill died in the Public Health Committee.

H.B. No. 5565 An Act Concerning An Exemption From State Licensing Fees For Nurses Fifty Years Of Age Or Older, to encourage nurses who are fifty years of age or older to remain in the nursing profession by exempting such persons from state licensing fees. The bill died in the Public Health Committee.

H.B. No. 5568 An Act Concerning Tax Credits For Certain Employers Participating In A Flextime Program, to encourage flextime programs to promote less traffic congestion and pollution, and better accommodate employees' personal schedules. The bill died in the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

H.B. No. 5648 An Act Permitting Municipal Police Departments To Conduct Criminal History Records Checks, to permit municipal police departments to conduct criminal history records checks. The bill died in the Public Safety and Security Committee.

H.B. No. 5668 An Act Concerning Access To Medical Records, to increase the per page fee that a health care provider may charge for the copying of medical records from forty-five cents per page to sixty-five cents per page. The bill died in the Public Health Committee.

H.B. No. 5687 An Act Concerning The Nursing Profession, to address shortages in the nursing profession by providing opportunities for nursing students and former nurses interested in rejoining the profession, and to expand the RN Refresher Course, a noncredit, certificate refresher course designed by the Connecticut League for Nursing to prepare inactive registered nurses to return, after an absence of three years or more, to the practice of nursing in first-level, medical-surgical staff positions in hospitals, long-term care facilities or in-home care. The bill died in the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

H.B. No. 5726 An Act Eliminating The Prevailing Wage Threshold For Public Works Projects, to eliminate the prevailing wage threshold for public works projects. The bill died in the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

H.B. No. 5733 An Act Concerning The Issuance Of Special Number Plates For Nurses And For The Establishment Of Scholarships For Nursing Education And Training Programs, to provide for the issuance of commemorative nursing number plates to express support for the nursing profession, raise awareness of the nursing shortage and provide scholarships for nursing education and training. The bill died in the Transportation Committee.

H.B. No. 5738 An Act Concerning A Decrease In Bus Fares For Senior Citizens And Persons With Disabilities, to decrease bus fares for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The bill died in the Transportation Committee.

H.B. No. 5747 An Act Requiring The Installation Of Highway Signs Concerning Cellular Telephone Use, to provide motor vehicle operators who enter Connecticut with notice that any use of a cellular telephone by the operator of a motor vehicle, without the use of a hands-free device, is against the law. The bill died in the Transportation Committee.

H.B. No. 5792 An Act Concerning The Asset Test Used To Determine Eligibility For The State-Administered General Assistance Program, to ensure the availability of a safety net for individuals who lose state-administered general assistance benefits by increasing the asset test used to determine eligibility for the program from two hundred fifty dollars to one thousand dollars. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5795 An Act Concerning The Availability Of Podiatry Services Under The Medicaid Program, to include podiatry services among the covered optional services under the Medicaid program. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5838 An Act Establishing A Retiree Health Care Trust Account For Retired State Employees, to establish an account to pay for health care costs for retired state employees. Requested by the State Comptroller. The bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

H.B. No. 5892 An Act Concerning The Quality Of Design And Construction Documents And The Prequalification Of Certain Subcontractors, to require designs for certain state construction projects to be reviewed by independent, third-party professionals and to require persons who perform certain work on state construction projects to be prequalified. The bill died in the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

H.B. No. 5905 An Act Modifying The Definition Of Preferred Provider Network And Clarifying Certain Provisions Of The Charter Oak Health Plan, to exempt nonprofit organizations providing services only to public assistance recipients from the requirements of licensure as a preferred provider network and to clarify certain provisions relating to insurer participation in the Charter Oak Health Plan. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5911 An Act Limiting Eligibility For The State-Administered Medical Assistance Program To Individuals Not Categorically Eligible For Medicaid, to clarify the eligibility criteria for the state-administered general assistance program to ensure that persons who would be eligible for Medicaid are excluded from the program. The bill died in the Human Services Committee.

H.B. No. 5932 An Act Concerning Tax Credits For Businesses That Hire Ex-offenders And Criminal History Questions In Certain Applications For State Employment, to: (1) Establish a tax credit for businesses that hire individuals with prior criminal convictions, and (2) require the Commissioner of Administrative Services to examine application forms for state employment with respect to questions concerning the criminal history of an applicant. The bill died in the Judiciary Committee.

We hope that the above information is helpful. Again, copies of any of the above mentioned or any other bills from this session can be found online at www.cga.ct.gov. Enter the bill number and hit “go”. This will bring you to the bill history page where you can see end results of any bills from the session including: if it passed both chambers, any amendments that passed, was it signed by the Governor, and any public act numbers that have been assigned. As always, you may contact us with any questions.

OTHER INFORMATION and LINKS:

The Office of Legislative Research (OLR) puts together information on 2008 Major Public Acts: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/2008MPA/2008-R-0307.PDF>

This link is to an OLR Report which lists the bills considered during the General Assembly’s 2008 regular session and June Special Session whose provisions were enacted under another bill number: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/2008%20Bill%20Tracking%20Report/2008-R-0382.pdf>