

DDS Legislative Update – April 27, 2012

House Passes DDS’s “Competency to Stand Trial” Bill, House Passes Amended Minimum Wage Bill, and DDS Bill Tracking

Legislative Session ends Wednesday, May 9, 2012

House Passes DDS’s H.B. No. 5367 - An Act Concerning Competency to Stand Trial.

On Wednesday April 25, 2012 the **House voted unanimously to pass the department’s [H.B. No. 5367](#) - An Act Concerning Competency to Stand Trial.** The portion of the bill related to DDS would amend subsections (l) and (m) of section 54-56d of the Connecticut General Statutes to allow a court to receive notice if a defendant is released from commitment to the Commissioner of Developmental Services prior to the expiration of the statute of limitations for the crime with which the defendant was charged and allows the court to order periodic evaluations of the defendant. **The Senate now needs to pass H.B. No. 5367 by the end of session.**

House Amends and Passes the Minimum Wage Bill.

The House amended [H.B. No. 5291](#) - An Act Concerning the Minimum Wage during a debate which lasted several hours. The amended bill would increase the minimum wage in the state from the current \$8.25 to \$8.50 on January 1, 2013 and then to \$8.75 on January 1, 2014. **The Senate must pass H.B. No. 5291 and then the Governor must sign the bill before the increase in the minimum wage would go into effect.**

The amendment lowered the proposed increase to the state’s minimum wage of \$8.75 in 2013 and then to \$9.25 in 2014 in the original bill. The amendment also removed the original bill’s provision which, beginning in 2015, would have required that annual state minimum wage adjustments be based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for tri-state area urban wage earners and clerical workers (CPI), as calculated by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

DDS Legislative List of Bills Being Tracked as of April 27, 2012.

Below is a link to the list of bills DDS is tracking and assessing as of April 27, 2012 that may be of interest to or may have a potential impact on DDS consumers, families and guardians, DDS employees and DDS providers.

[DDS Legislative List of Bills Being Tracked - April 27, 2012](#)

Note: The Connecticut General Assembly’s 2012 session ends on Wednesday, May 9, 2012. The House and Senate will be in session most days from April 30th through May 9th. The Connecticut Network (CT-N) streams both House and Senate sessions, so you may watch the debates on legislation in both chambers. **The link to CT-N is <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/>.**