

DDS Legislative Update – May 7, 2012

House Passes DDS's Birth-To-Three Insurance Coverage Bill, Senate Passes Collective Bargaining for Personal Care Attendants, and DDS Bill Tracking

Legislative Session ends Wednesday, May 9, 2012

House Votes Unanimously for DDS's AAC Insurance Coverage for the Birth-To-Three Program.

The House passed [S.B. No. 205](#) **An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage for the Birth-To-Three Program** on Friday, May 4, 2012. This bill is one of DDS's three agency bills in the 2012 legislative session. **S.B. No. 205** now will become a Public Act and then will await the Governor's signature to become law. The bill's provisions are effective as of July 1, 2012.

Senate Passes Collective Bargaining for Personal Care Attendants in Concurrence with the House.

The Senate debated and passed an amended [H.B. No. 5312](#) **An Act Creating a Process for Family Child Care Providers and Personal Care Attendants to Collectively Bargain with the State** on Thursday, May 3rd. H.B. No. 5312, as amended by House Amendments "A" and "B" would allow **Personal Care Attendants (PCA)** and **Family Child Care Providers** the ability to collectively bargain with the state. The bill still needs to be signed into law by the Governor.

H.B. No. 5312 File Copy No. 586: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2012/FC/pdf/2012HB-05312-R000586-FC.pdf>

The bill's provisions allow certain family child care providers and personal care attendants (PCAs) to collectively bargain with the state through an employee organization (i. e. , a union) over reimbursement rates, benefits, payment procedures, contract grievance arbitration, training, professional development, and other requirements and opportunities. The bill specifically prohibits certain subjects from being collectively bargained and sets conditions under which the General Assembly must affirmatively approve any contract or arbitration award. The bill creates a PCA Workforce Council to study and plan for improving PCA quality, stability, and availability. The bill also prohibits the unions from charging dues or nonmember service fees to child care providers and PCAs during the first 60 days that they participate in their respective programs.

DDS Legislative List of Bills Being Tracked as of May 7, 2012.

Below is a link to the list of bills DDS is tracking and assessing as of May 7, 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 Bill Being Tracked- May 7, 2012](#)

Note: The **DDS Legislative Affairs** team will be compiling an end-of-session **Legislative Summary for the 2012 session**. All the bills that DDS has been tracking will be summarized and their impact on DDS consumers, families and guardians, DDS employees and DDS providers will be highlighted.

Note: The Connecticut General Assembly's 2012 session ends on Wednesday, May 9, 2012. The House and Senate will be in session May 7th 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/>.**