



Ned Lamont
Governor

State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

Date: August 1, 2019

To: Interested Persons

From: Krista Ostaszewski & Rod O'Connor

Re: 2019 DDS Legislative Session Summary

This document provides a summary of bills and public acts that passed during the General Assembly regular 2019 legislative session. The bills and public acts highlighted may impact or be of interest to individuals receiving funding or services from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), 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 were passed by both the House and the Senate. In all bills and public acts, [bracketed] language indicates a deletion. Underlined language or the word "NEW" indicates new language.

We also have attached a list of bills that we were tracking that did NOT pass as of the end of session on June 5, 2019. We have provided a link to the bill history page for all bills in this summary, regardless of whether they passed or not. These lists are by no means exhaustive. Please keep in mind that many bills on the same or similar issues that did not pass (died) during the session may have had the provisions of the bill incorporated into a compromise bill or the larger budget bill. Also, if there were multiple bills on a similar subject, we may have only included the one that went the furthest in the legislative process.

Please note: SB stands for Senate Bill, HB stands for House Bill, PA stands for Public Act and FY stands for Fiscal Year. A fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th. The fiscal year that begins July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2020 is considered FY20.

Summaries in this document include information from the Connecticut General Assembly's Office of Legislative Research and the Office of Fiscal Analysis. Please note that this document is up-to-date as of August 1, 2019 and does not include action on bills in upcoming special sessions.

If you have questions on these or any other bills from the 2019 legislative session, please contact us at Rod.OConnor@ct.gov or Krista.Ostaszewski@ct.gov. Enjoy!

Links to Sections of the 2019 Legislative Summary

[Senate Bills That Were Signed into Law](#)

[House Bills That Were Signed into Law](#)

[Budget Bill](#)

[Senate Bills That Did Not Pass](#)

[House Bills That Did Not Pass](#)

SENATE BILLS THAT WERE SIGNED INTO LAW

[Public Act No. 19-25 S.B. No. 1](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE** This act creates the Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FMLI) program to provide wage replacement benefits to certain employees taking leave for reasons allowed under the state's Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The program provides employees with up to 12 weeks of FMLI benefits over a 12-month period. The program also provides two additional weeks of benefits for a serious health condition that results in incapacitation during pregnancy. Under the act, individuals eligible for benefits are those who earned at least \$2,325 during their highest earning quarter within their base period (the first four of the five most recently completed quarters) and (1) are private-sector employees or certain "covered public employees," (2) were employed in the previous 12 weeks, or (3) are sole proprietors or self-employed people who voluntarily enroll in the program. The program is funded by employee contributions, with collections beginning in January 2021. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

[Public Act No. 19-16 S.B. No. 3](#) **AN ACT COMBATTING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT** The act makes various changes concerning sexual harassment, sexual assault, discrimination complaints filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) and related matters. The act expands requirements for employers on training employees regarding sexual harassment laws and requires CHRO to develop and make available, at no cost to employers, an online training and education video or other interactive methods that full the act's training requirements. The act also creates a task force to study the statute of limitations, increases the penalty for some sexual assault crimes and changes the statute of limitations to 10 years for a specified felony sexual assault crime, dependent on the age of the victim. Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the act increase the penalty for subjecting someone to sexual contact if the victim is mentally incapacitated and cannot consent to such contact from 4th degree sexual assault to 3rd degree sexual assault, and increases the maximum prison term and criminal fine for the offense. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019 with some exceptions.

[Public Act No. 19-89 S.B. No. 375](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME STAFFING LEVELS** This act requires nursing homes to calculate and post daily, at the beginning of each shift, information related to the number of advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nurse's aides responsible for providing direct care to residents during the shift. Nursing homes must make the information available for public review, upon request, and retain the information for at least 18 months after posting it. The act also authorizes the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to take disciplinary action or issue a citation against a nursing home if it substantially failed to comply with current DPH nursing home minimum direct care staffing requirements that are currently 1.9 hours of direct nursing staff per resident per day. Nursing homes must prominently post on-site the staffing violation. Additionally, the act requires a nursing home or residential care home (RCH) that discriminates or retaliates against a resident, resident's legal representative, or

employee for filing a complaint or testifying in an administrative proceeding against a home to (1) reinstate a terminated employee or (2) restore a resident's prior housing arrangement or other living condition, as appropriate. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019.

Public Act No. 19-10 S.B. No. 682 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REWARD PROGRAM FOR STATE EMPLOYEE REPORTING OF WASTEFUL PRACTICES The act establishes a reward program for state employees who make a suggestion that (1) concerns an alleged gross waste of funds in the state agency at which they are employed, (2) is subsequently implemented by the agency, and (3) results in agency cost savings exceeding \$10,000. Each state agency is required to designate a suggestion coordinator to receive employee's suggestions. The act also explicitly details matters that would be ineligible for such award. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019.

Public Act No. 19-19 S.B. No. 706 AN ACT CONCERNING EPINEPHRINE AUTO INJECTORS This act allows an authorized entity (e.g., for-profit or non-profit entity) to acquire and maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors (e.g., EpiPens) from a wholesaler and provide or administer them to a person experiencing an anaphylactic reaction. To do this, the authorized entity must (1) establish a medical protocol with a prescribing practitioner and (2) have at least one employee or agent trained in recognizing the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, administering the medication, and following emergency protocol. In addition, the act generally grants immunity from civil and criminal liability to (1) prescribing practitioners who establish medical protocols with authorized entities and (2) authorized entities, the state or its political subdivisions, or their trained employees who provide or administer epinephrine auto-injectors to someone experiencing anaphylaxis. The act also establishes related training, storage, and medication administration requirements. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

Special Act No. 19-18 S.B. No. 804 AN ACT CONCERNING A COMMUNITY OMBUDSMAN This act requires the Department of Rehabilitation Services' (DORS) State Ombudsman and the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop a community ombudsman program to investigate complaints concerning care received by recipients of home and community based services administered by DSS. Not later than September 1, 2019, the State Ombudsman and the Commissioner of Social Services are required to submit a report to the General Assembly's Committee on Aging and Human Services Committee identifying: (1) The persons to be served in the Community Ombudsman program, (2) the types of services to be offered under such program, and (3) appropriations needed to staff the Community Ombudsman program. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

Public Act No. 19-56 S.B. No. 807 AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES, DENTAL ASSISTANTS AND DENTAL THERAPY Along with making various technical changes to public health-related statutes, this act in section 12 extends by one year, until January 1, 2020, the reporting deadline for the task force on the needs of and services for adults with intellectual disability. The act also (1) establishes a dental therapist designation for dental hygienists who meet certain certification, education, clinical training, and examination requirements; (2) requires such therapists to work pursuant to a collaborative agreement with a dentist; (3) limits these therapists' practice to public health settings; and (4) gives dental assistants more time to pass an infection control examination, while also providing an alternate way to meet the requirement through a competency assessment. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except that the dental assistant provisions take effect July 1, 2019 and the dental therapist provisions take effect January 1, 2020.

Public Act No. 19-115 S.B. No. 827 AN ACT CONCERNING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA TRAINING AND BEST PRACTICES This act modifies continuing education requirements for physicians and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). Current law requires these professionals to complete at least two contact hours of training or education during the first license renewal period in which continuing education is required and at least once every six years thereafter on mental health conditions

common to veterans and their family members. This act retains the Alzheimer's disease and dementia continuing education requirement for APRNs, but allows physicians to instead complete at least two contact hours of training or education on certain specified topics. Additionally, the act requires the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors (CWCS) to establish a nine-member working group on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia. EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2020.

Public Act No. 19-116 S.B. No. 832 AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRIES OF PERSONS FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSAULTS OR OTHER ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION OR ABANDONMENT OF ELDERLY PERSONS OR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES This act requires the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors to provide a portal on the commission's website that includes links to publicly available background databases. Under the act, "publicly available background databases" include: (1) the U.S. Department of Justice's sex offender public website, (2) the Connecticut sex offender registry, (3) the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General's list of individuals and entities excluded from participating in federally-funded health care programs for reasons including Medicare or Medicaid fraud, (4) DPH's nurse's aide registry, (5) the Judicial Branch's criminal and motor vehicle conviction database, (6) DPH's professional licensure verification database, and (7) the Department of Social Services' (DSS's) database of practitioners and entities suspended or excluded from participating in DSS-administered programs. The act also requires the Commission to convene a working group to develop strategies to raise public awareness of these databases with those people hiring providers to care for adults aged 60 and older, children, or individuals with disabilities. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019.

Special Act No. 19-19 S.B. No. 892 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION PERTAINING TO CONGREGATE CARE FACILITIES LICENSED OR ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES This act requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in consultation with the Child Advocate and operators of congregate care facilities licensed by DCF to develop a process for the collection of information concerning (1) the monitoring and inspection of such facilities, and (2) the health, safety, treatment and discharge outcomes. This information would be made public on the DCF website. In addition, the act requires DCF to promptly notify the Office of Child Advocate and the parents or guardians of children receiving services at such facilities when (1) any action or sanction is taken related to the facility's license related to the health or safety of such children and (2) any corrective actions are undertaken by such facilities following such actions or sanctions. The act also requires DCF to submit a report to the committees of cognizance regarding the time frames for implementation of the provisions within this act. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

Public Act No. 19-97 S.B. No. 919 AN ACT REMOVING THE TERM "HOMEMAKER" IN REFERENCE TO HOME HEALTH AIDE AGENCIES AND SERVICES This act makes technical changes to update terminology in statutes related to home health care. It conforms to current practice by removing references to the term "homemaker" in provisions on home health aide agencies, providers, and services. By law, homemaker-home health aide services are in-home supportive services provided under a registered nurse's supervision. Such services include, among other things, assistance with feeding, dressing, personal hygiene, or incidental household tasks. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019.

Public Act No. 19-118 S.B. No. 920 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES This act makes various changes to public health-related statutes. Section 25 of the act requires that each job applicant who has been made a conditional offer of employment by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) be fingerprinted and submit to both state and national criminal history records checks. Previously, only applicants who would be providing direct care to individuals with intellectual disability were required to be fingerprinted and submit to state and national criminal history records checks.

Among its various provisions, the act: (1) Extends the period of Department of Public Health (DPH) licensure for nationally accredited outpatient clinics from three years to four years; (2) requires a nursing home to notify DPH of a proposed ownership change at least 120 days, instead of 90 days, before the date of the ownership transfer; (3) exempts nonprofit nursing homes from property taxes; (4) authorizes emergency medical services (EMS) to establish mobile integrated health care programs and establish rates for EMS transport, when medically appropriate, to alternative destinations to emergency rooms; and (5) allows DPH or a health care practitioner licensing board or commission to take disciplinary action against a practitioner in Connecticut who has voluntarily surrendered or entered into an agreement not to renew or reinstate his or her license or permit in another jurisdiction. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

Public Act No. 19-120 S.B. No. 929 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL MANDATED REPORTERS, THE DURATION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS, CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY CHECKS AND THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES This act adds to the statutory list of mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect (1) persons who have regular contact with and provide services to or on behalf of children through a contract with or credential from Department of Children and Families (DCF), (2) victim services advocates employed by the Judicial Department’s Office of Victim Services, and (3) employees of a Court Support Services Division-operated or -contracted juvenile justice program. The act expands requirements for DCF to check the state child abuse and neglect registry for persons employed by certain DCF-licensed facilities. It also requires DCF to check the child abuse and neglect registry in any state in which various persons resided in the previous five years and comply with any request from a child welfare agency of another state to check the child abuse and neglect registry. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

Public Act No. 19-127 S.B. No. 945 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INNOVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR NONPROFIT PROVIDERS OF HUMAN SERVICES This act requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to establish a pilot program that provides incentives to qualifying nonprofit human service providers that realize savings in the state-contracted services they deliver. Under the act, the pilot program must (1) allow participating providers to keep a portion of any savings they realize from the contracted service cost as long as they meet their contractual requirements and (2) prohibit future state contracts for the same type of service from being reduced solely on savings achieved under the pilot. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019.

Public Act No. 19-99 S.B. No. 967 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICATION Existing law establishes court procedures for involuntarily medicating a criminal defendant who (1) was found incompetent to stand trial, (2) is in the custody of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and (3) is unable or unwilling to consent to medication to treat his or her psychiatric disabilities. This act codifies existing practice by creating an exception to these procedures. The exception applies if obtaining consent would cause a medically harmful delay to such a patient with a condition of an extremely critical nature, as determined by personal observation of a physician or the senior clinician on duty. In such a case, the act allows such a provider to order the medication without the patient’s consent and without going to court. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

Public Act No. 19-153 S.B. No. 1103 AN ACT CONCERNING INTERAGENCY DATA SHARING This act requires the state’s chief data officer, in consultation with the attorney general and executive branch agency legal counsel, to (1) review legal obstacles to sharing executive branch agencies’ inventoried “high value data” among agencies and with the public and (2) annually report recommendations to facilitate data sharing. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

HOUSE BILLS THAT WERE SIGNED INTO LAW

Public Act No. 19-4 H.B. No. 5004 AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE This act increases the state's minimum hourly wage from its current \$10.10 to (1) \$11.00 on October 1, 2019; (2) \$12.00 on September 1, 2020; (3) \$13.00 on August 1, 2021; (4) \$14.00 on July 1, 2022; and (5) \$15.00 on June 1, 2023. Beginning January 1, 2024, it indexes future annual minimum wage changes to the federal employment cost index (ECI). The act also allows employers to count employees' tips towards the difference between the employer's share and the increasing minimum wage, as long as the tips make up the difference. Starting October 1, 2019, the act also changes the "training wage" that employers may pay to learners, beginners, and people under age 18. Starting October 1, 2020, the act also prohibits employers from taking any action to displace, or partially displace, an employee in order to hire people under age 18 at a subminimum wage rate. This includes reducing an employee's hours, wages, or employment benefits. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019.

Public Act No. 19-106 H.B. No. 6184 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTIONS This act requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), by January 1, 2020, to develop a one-page document that includes: (1) key developmental milestones for children from birth to age five and (2) notice that parents or guardians concerned that their child has not met developmental milestones and may access the OEC Child Development Infoline for information on appropriate services. This document must be posted on the OEC website and in each child care center, group child care home, or family child care home. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019.

Public Act No. 19-147 H.B. No. 7000 AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL This act requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to annually compile a list of available training programs for certain first responders regarding individuals with autism spectrum disorder, nonverbal learning disorder and cognitive impairment. DPH must make the list available to first responders annually by July 1, 2019. The act also requires the UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities to develop a communication aid for certain first responders to use to communicate with individuals with autism spectrum disorder, nonverbal learning disorder, or cognitive impairment during emergencies when verbal communication is hindered or impossible. The center must publish the communication aid on its website by December 1, 2019. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019, except the provision that makes changes to the police training requirements is effective January 1, 2020.

Special Act No. 19-12 H.B. No. 7093 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES This act creates a task force to study how to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. The task force will study and make recommendations concerning the expansion of existing employment assistance programs for persons with disabilities and establishing financial incentives for businesses to employ more persons with disabilities. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

Public Act No. 19-47 H.B. No. 7130 AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT OPERATIONS This act makes numerous statutory changes regarding the Probate Court. DDS-related changes include: (1) allowing for electronic filing and delivery of probate court documents and requiring the appeal period for electronically served decisions to be calculated from the date of transmission; (2) removing the Probate Court's ability to, on its own motion, appoint a guardian for a minor who has no parent or guardian and instead only allowing an adult relative, person with physical custody of the minor, or the minor's attorney to petition for a guardian appointment; and (3) eliminating the requirement that the guardian of an adult with intellectual disability (i.e., a plenary or limited guardian) receive personal service of a petition to remove his or her guardianship. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage.

Public Act No. 19-157 H.B. No. 7163 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT ON AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES AND MEALS ON WHEELS This act allows the Department of Social Services (DSS), beginning July 1, 2020, to annually increase the reimbursement rate for meals-on-wheels providers under the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders by at least the consumer price index's cost of living adjustment. The act also requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), as part of its quality of care program for licensed health care facilities (e.g., hospitals and nursing homes), to develop recommendations on collecting and analyzing data on patient malnutrition to improve quality of care. Lastly, the act renames the "Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)" to the "Department of Aging and Disability Services". EFFECTIVE DATE: Various dates.

Public Act No. 19-49 H.B. No. 7168 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSITIONAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER This act requires the first individual education program (IEP) for a child who is 14 years old and diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder to include (1) appropriate measureable postsecondary goals and (2) transition services, including courses of study, needed to assist a child in reaching those goals. Under the act, postsecondary goals are based on age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and where appropriate, independent living skills. The act also requires the child's planning and placement team to update the child's IEP annually with regard to the act's requirements. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019.

Public Act No. 19-164 H.B. No. 7198 AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS This act generally prohibits anyone from using the title "social worker," or any associated initials, or advertising services as a social worker unless he or she (1) has a bachelor's or master's degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE); (2) a doctorate in social work; or (3) if educated outside of the U.S. or its territories, completed an education program CSWE deems equivalent. Existing law already prohibits anyone who is unlicensed from using the title of licensed master or clinical social worker or advertising services as such. The act exempts from the prohibition (1) state employees with the job title social worker and (2) municipal employees with this job title hired before July 1, 2019. Existing law already allows any person employed by the state before October 1, 1996, with the title in the social work series of the classified service to have such a title to describe or perform his or her duties. Starting October 1, 2019, the act requires the state, on any posting for a job in the social work series of classified service that does not require a social work license, to specify that the preferred qualification is a bachelor's or master's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program or a doctorate in social work. EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019.

Public Act No. 19-170 H.B. No. 7230 AN ACT CONCERNING INTERPRETER STANDARDS This act expands the circumstances that require interpreters to register with the Department of Rehabilitation Services and creates exceptions to this requirement under narrow circumstances. The act also broadens the (1) types of credentials an individual may hold to qualify as a registered interpreter and (2) categories of medical and legal settings that require interpreters to hold additional credentials. Additionally, the act requires DORS to (1) maintain a current listing of registered interpreters on its website, and (2) annually issue interpreter identification cards listing the types of settings where the cardholder can interpret. The act provides that persons who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing may exercise their right to request or use a different registered interpreter than the one provided in any setting in accordance with a nationally recognized interpreter code of professional conduct. Lastly, the act authorizes anyone to report a violation related to interpreter requirements to Disability Rights Connecticut, Inc. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019.

BUDGET BILL

Public Act No. 19-117 H.B. No. 7424 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET This act provides the state budget appropriations for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

Effective July 1, 2019, this budget appropriates the following amounts to the Department of Developmental Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

<i>DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES</i>		
<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>2019-2020</i>	<i>2020-2021</i>
Personal Services	200,282,835	209,745,951
Other Expenses	15,133,419	15,069,356
Housing Supports and Services	350,000	1,400,000
Family Support Grants	3,700,840	3,700,840
Clinical Services	2,340,271	2,337,724
Workers' Compensation Claims	14,598,415	15,404,040
Behavioral Services Program	23,044,686	22,571,979
Supplemental Payments for Medical Services	3,233,467	3,008,132
ID Partnership Initiatives	1,529,000	1,529,000
Emergency Placements	5,630,000	5,630,000
Rent Subsidy Program	4,782,312	4,782,312
Employment Opportunities and Day Services	277,945,780	289,183,217
AGENCY TOTAL	552,571,025	574,362,551
<i>DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES</i>		
<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>2019-2020</i>	<i>2020-2021</i>
Community Residential Services	622,412,127	638,014,602

As outlined above, the budget funds DDS over both years of the biennium. Items of interest include:

- Annualized funding for Emergency Placements. DDS will continue to use this funding to develop crisis prevention and intervention strategies to deescalate crisis situations and prevent long-term hospital emergency department stays. Current initiatives include the Step Up/Step Down Unit and Enhanced Family Support teams.
- Annualized funding for Housing Supports and Services. This funding will provide 70 new supportive housing units for individuals with intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder.
- Provides funding for case load growth for employment opportunities and day service placements.
- In the Department of Social Services budget, the Community Residential Services account, which provides funding for room and board payments for DDS residential services, was increased to reflect case load growth.

Additional DDS provisions in the budget include:

- **Section 26** requires that DDS receive 80% reimbursement from private providers when actual expenditures are less than the amount received from the Department in both FY 20 and FY 21. DDS must allow providers to retain 20% of cost settlement funds. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019.
- **Sections 294, 296, 298 and 299** remove DDS community companion homes (CCHs) from the Department of Social Services room and board payment process in anticipation of a newly established rate methodology under DDS. EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2020.

SENATE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

S.B. No. 4 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS This bill would have required the Department of Public Health to conduct a study of the public health impact of people not taking their prescription medications, or not taking them as directed, because they cannot afford to pay for the medications. **S.B. No. 4 died on the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 15 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS This bill would have required health insurance coverage for motorized wheelchairs, including, but not limited to, used motorized wheelchairs, repairs to motorized wheelchairs and replacement batteries for motorized wheelchairs. **S.B. No. 15 died on the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 33 AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF ORALLY AND INTRAVENOUSLY ADMINISTERED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS This bill would have required health insurance policies providing coverage for prescription drugs to provide coverage for orally administered prescription drugs on a basis that is no less favorable than the basis on which such policies provide coverage for intravenously administered prescription drugs. **S.B. No. 33 died on the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 36 AN ACT PROHIBITING HEALTH CARRIERS FROM REQUIRING THE USE OF STEP THERAPY FOR DRUGS PRESCRIBED TO TREAT DISABLING, CHRONIC OR LIFE-THREATENING DISEASES OR CONDITIONS This bill would have prohibited health carriers from requiring the use of step therapy for drugs prescribed to treat disabling, chronic or life-threatening diseases or conditions. **S.B. No. 36 died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.**

S.B. No. 63 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING TO ASSIST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES This bill would have authorized adults with disabilities to voluntarily enter into agreements with other adults (“supporters”) for supported decision-making, which is a process of supporting and accommodating adults with disabilities to enable them to make life decisions without impeding their self-determination. A supported decision-making agreements would allow supporters to provide supported decision-making, be present during the supported decision-making process at the adult’s request, or assist the adult with (1) getting information related to life decisions from any person as long as the supporter keeps such information confidential and (2) communicating the adult’s decisions with others. The bill would have prohibited state and local agencies and others from being subject to criminal or civil liability or findings of professional misconduct based on acts or omissions done in good faith and in reasonable reliance on a supported decision-making agreement. **S.B. No. 63 died on the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 64 AN ACT CONCERNING CAPTIVE AUDIENCE MEETINGS This bill would have generally prohibited employers, including the state and its political subdivisions, from requiring their employees to attend an employer-sponsored meeting with the employer if the meeting’s primary purpose is to communicate the employer's opinion about political or religious matters. **S.B. No. 64 died in the Labor and Public Employees Committee.**

S.B. No. 66 AN ACT CONCERNING THE NONEMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION OF ELDERLY PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES CONFINED TO A STRETCHER. This bill would have allowed temporary and permanent livery permit holders to use stretcher vans to transport elderly persons and persons with disabilities who must be transported on a stretcher and if the person being transported (1) would not need medical services during transport and (2) had obtained written consent to be transported in a stretcher van from his or her licensed primary care provider. **S.B. No. 66 died on the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 124 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO A CITIZENS IN NEED ACCOUNT This bill would have established a “citizens in need account” to allow the state to receive charitable contributions to assist residents who have had their benefits from state social services programs administered by the Department of Social Services reduced due to state budgetary constraints, and to provide taxpayers with a state tax deduction at the rate of two hundred per cent of the amount donated to the account. **S.B. No. 124 died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.**

S.B. No. 134 AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC OPTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT This bill would have required the comptroller to establish the ConnectHealth Plan, a “public option” health insurance program to enable small businesses and small business employees to either join (1) a newly established group health insurance and pharmacy plan for private employers with less than 50 employees or (2) the state employee health insurance plan. **S.B. No. 134 died on the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 157 AN ACT CONCERNING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION EMPLOYEE STATE VEHICLE USE The bill would have required the Commissioner of Administrative Services, when entering into or renewing a contract with a nonprofit organization to authorize their employees to use state fleet vehicles, to permit the nonprofit employees to use a state fleet vehicle in the course of their employment when performing services that are not state services. **S.B. No. 157 died in the Government Administration and Elections Committee.**

S.B. No. 273 AN ACT CONCERNING DEBT-FREE COLLEGE This bill would have enabled in-state recent high school graduates enrolled in regional community-technical colleges to graduate without student loans and to implement a program to encourage residents to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. **S.B. No. 273 died on the Senate Calendar.** Provisions of this bill were included in **Section 362** of **Public Act No. 19-117 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET.**

S.B. No. 327 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY AMBULANCE SERVICES AT AN IN-NETWORK LEVEL AND PROHIBITING BALANCE BILLING FOR SUCH SERVICES This bill would have required health insurance coverage for medically necessary ambulance services at an in-network level, including, but not limited to, at an in-network level of cost sharing, and prohibit balance billing for such services. **S.B. No. 327 died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.**

S.B. No. 367 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY This proposed bill would have created a task force to (1) study the short-term and long-term needs of adults with intellectual disability, including such adults with significant behavioral health issues or significant issues related to aging, Alzheimer's disease, and dementia; (2) determine ways in which the services and support such adults need may be provided; and (3) submit a report to the Public Health Committee. **S.B. No. 367 died in the Public Health Committee.**

S.B. No. 372 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF RESOURCES TO GUARDIANS OF ADULT CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY This bill would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS) to apply for any applicable Medicaid state plan amendment, waiver, or waiver amendment to allow guardians or family members of adults with intellectual disability to receive a stipend for providing personal care services to such individuals. Under specified conditions, the bill would have required the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to provide stipends to guardians or family members who provide such care. This would have applied if the adult with intellectual disability were at least age 21 and (1) had complex medical or behavioral needs, according to DDS’s level of need (LON) assessment; (2) had an

income at or below the federal poverty level; and (3) were at risk of institutionalization. Under the bill, DDS would have been required to begin providing such stipends by the earlier of (1) July 1, 2020, or (2) 15 days after DSS receives federal approval for the Medicaid state plan amendment, waiver, or waiver amendment described above. DDS would have been required to pay the stipend at the rate DSS sets by law for home health services under the Connecticut home care program for the elderly. For purposes of the bill, “guardian or family member” would have meant: (1) one or more biological or adoptive parents of an adult with intellectual disability; (2) one or more persons granted legal custody of an adult with intellectual disability when that adult was a minor and in whose home the adult resides; or (3) any other adult family member of an adult with intellectual disability who resides with and has a primary responsibility for providing continuous care to the individual. **S.B. No. 372 died on the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 393 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' LEVEL OF NEED ASSESSMENT Prior to it being amended in the Senate, the bill would have required the Department of Developmental Services to analyze and update the department’s level of need (LON) assessment, which is a standardized screening tool. The consulting costs associated with this process were estimated to range from \$150,000 to \$500,000 in FY 20. The cost would have depended on the scope of the contract, which could have included new data collection for validity and reliability testing, analysis of the new data, assessor training, retesting for validity and reliability, and revisions to the tool’s algorithm. The LON assessment is used by an individual’s Planning and Support Team to help determine the supports and services needed and associated funding. While the bill did not address the funding associated with the LON score, any revisions to the LON assessment could have the potential to alter the appropriate levels of supports for individuals that cannot be determined prior to such revisions.

The bill as amended would have established a legislative task force to study the Department of Developmental Services' level of need assessment system. The study would have required (1) an examination of the assessment instrument, policies, procedures, training and education materials related to the department's level of need assessment system and the diverse behavioral and medical issues assessed by such system, and (2) developing recommendations for improvement and greater consistency in administration and results. **S.B. No. 393 died on House Calendar.**

S.B. No. 396 AN ACT CONCERNING SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN EPILEPSY This bill would have required the Chief Medical Examiner to make a determination as to whether a deceased person with epilepsy suffered a sudden, unexpected death in epilepsy. **S.B. No. 396 died in the Public Health Committee.**

S.B. No. 424 AN ACT CONCERNING CAMERA VIDEO SYSTEMS INSIDE SCHOOL BUSES AND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES USED TO TRANSPORT CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS The bill would have required the State Department of Education (SDE) to conduct a study related to the installation of camera video systems inside school buses and student transportation vehicles used to transport students with special needs. SDE would have had to contract with a consultant to conduct the study. **S.B. No. 424 died on the House Calendar.**

S.B. No. 440 AN ACT PROTECTING EMPLOYEE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND CONSCIENCE This bill would have generally prohibited employers, including the state and its political subdivisions, from disciplining or discharging an employee, or threatening to do so, because the employee refused to attend employer-sponsored meetings, listen to speech, or view communications primarily intended to convey the employer’s opinion about religious or political matters (i.e., “captive audience meetings”). Additionally, the bill would have expanded the prohibition in current law against employers disciplining or discharging employees for exercising their First Amendment rights or similar rights under the Connecticut Constitution to include threats by employers to discipline or discharge employees for exercising these rights. The bill specified that these rights include the right to (1) free speech, (2) freedom of religion, (3) freedom of association, and (4)

freedom from the requirement to listen to speech, except as allowed under the bill. The bill provided certain exceptions to both its prohibition on punishing employees for refusing to attend captive audience meetings and the current law's prohibition on punishing employees for exercising their constitutional rights. These exceptions would allow employers to communicate information required by law or that the employees need to perform their jobs. It also would have exempted speech on religious matters made by certain religious organizations to their employees. [S.B. No. 440](#) died on the Senate Calendar.

[S.B. No. 691](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING ERASURE OF CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR CRIMINAL RECORDS AND EXPEDITED PARDONS REVIEW FOR CERTAIN FELONY OFFENSES** This bill would have established a process to automatically erase (1) certain misdemeanor criminal records and (2) convictions for decriminalized offenses. The bill would have excluded persons who have pending charges or an open criminal case in any jurisdiction. Under the bill, misdemeanor criminal convictions would have been required to be automatically erased from an individual's criminal history record at no cost three years after the individual completed his or most recent sentence for a misdemeanor or felony conviction. Notice of the erasure would have been required to be sent immediately to all persons, agencies, officials, or institutions known to have information about the person's criminal history record as well as to the person within 30 days after the erasure. Misdemeanors that are family violence crimes, nonviolent sexual offenses, or sexually violent offenses would not have been eligible for automatic erasure. The bill additionally would have required a system to facilitate information erasure between various entities with cognizance over law enforcement and criminal justice and local police departments and law enforcement officials. Specific to persons with disabilities, the bill would have erased the record of any person who was convicted pursuant to section 53-61a, which is assault in the 3rd degree of a person with disabilities, an elderly person or a woman who is pregnant. [S.B. No. 691](#) died on the Senate Calendar.

[S.B. No. 697](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS IN THE WORKPLACE** This bill would have barred an employer from entering into or negotiating a contract with an employee or prospective employee that contains a nondisclosure or non-disparagement clause, waiver, or other provision that prevents the employee from disclosing or discussing workplace sexual harassment or sexual assault. No contract provisions could prohibit an employee from disclosing or discussing sexual harassment or assault occurring (1) in the workplace, (2) at a work-related event coordinated by the employer or employees, or (3) between employees or between an employer and an employee off the employment premises. The bill would have allowed employees or prospective employees to bring a lawsuit to redress a violation of its provisions in any court of competent jurisdiction. [S.B. No. 697](#) died on the Senate Calendar.

[S.B. No. 698](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING COMPLAINTS OF WORKPLACE VIOLENCE OR ABUSIVE CONDUCT INVOLVING STATE EMPLOYEES** This bill would have required the Department of Administrative Services to report the number of complaints of bullying or abusive conduct involving state employees and any recommendations about reporting, preventing, evaluating, and investigating these complaints to both the Governor and the General Assembly. [S.B. No. 698](#) died on the Senate Calendar.

[S.B. No. 761](#) **AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION AGAINST AN EMPLOYER WHO FAILS TO PROVIDE HONEST RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN ASKED TO PROVIDE A REFERENCE FOR A JOB APPLICANT** This bill would have required employers, when recommending or positively commenting on a current or former employee to a prospective employer, to disclose to the prospective employer any known act of sexual harassment or sexual assault committed by the employee that occurred in the workplace of the employer. It also would have made the employer liable to any employee of the prospective (new) employer for any sexual harassment or assault the former employee commits in the new workplace, if the new employer relied on the former employer's recommendation or comment. The bill also would have prohibited an employer from entering into a contract with an employee that, as condition of employment, contained a nondisclosure or non-disparagement clause that would prevent an employee from

disclosing or discussing discrimination, including harassment, occurring in the workplace. [S.B. No. 761](#) **died on the House Calendar.**

[S.B. No. 764](#) **AN ACT PROHIBITING "ON-CALL" SHIFT SCHEDULING** This bill generally would have required employers with at least 25 employees to pay certain types of employees (i.e., those in wholesale or retail occupations, restaurant occupations, and certain occupations in hotels or residential care facilities) half of their regular pay rate for any scheduled hours that the employer cancels or reduces (1) after the employee reports to work the scheduled hours or (2) less than 72 in advance. The bill would have allowed certain exceptions, such as mutually agreed upon shift swapping by employees, power outages, or severe weather conditions that pose a threat to employee safety. If an employer scheduled an employee to work with less than 72 hours' notice, the bill would have required the scheduling to be (1) mutually agreed to, freely and without coercion; (2) in writing; and (3) done on a case-by-case basis. The bill also would have required these employers to pay these employees a time-and-a-half rate for working a shift that begins less than 11 hours after the employee's previous shift ended. [S.B. No. 764](#) **died on the Senate Calendar.**

[S.B. No. 765](#) **AN ACT ENSURING FAIR AND EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK** Prior to being amended this bill would have changed how an employer could defend itself in gender wage discrimination lawsuits by (1) prohibiting employers from counting certain types of leave against an employee's seniority if the employer uses a seniority system to defend its wage differences and (2) allowing an employer to reduce certain damages in such suits by completing an equal pay analysis and meeting certain other requirements. The bill also would have allowed an employer to file a motion in any court of competent jurisdiction to disallow the compensatory or punitive damages awarded in a suit alleging gender wage discrimination. The bill as amended would have prohibited employers from counting certain types of leave against an employee's seniority if the employer used a seniority system to defend its wage differentials in a gender wage discrimination lawsuit. [S.B. No. 765](#) **died on the House Calendar.**

[S.B. No. 792](#) **AN ACT CREATING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO STUDY DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION THAT OCCURS IN WORKPLACES AND SCHOOLS IN THE STATE** This bill would have established an advisory committee that would examine how state laws might be enhanced in order to strengthen protections against discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression that occurs in workplaces and schools. [S.B. No. 792](#) **died on the House Calendar.**

[S.B. No. 818](#) **AN ACT ALLOWING FOR THE DEDUCTION OF COURT-APPROVED CONSERVATOR AND FIDUCIARY EXPENSES FROM MEDICAID APPLIED INCOME** This bill would have allowed for the deduction of Probate Court-approved (1) Compensation of a conservator; (2) court filing fees and expenses; (3) premiums for any probate bond; and (4) any other fiduciary expenses from the amount of a Medicaid recipient's income applied to the cost of his or her care. The bill would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS) to calculate annually the total amount deducted from applied income during the preceding fiscal year and inform the Probate Court, in writing, of the amount. The Probate Court Administrator then would be required to transfer funds from the Probate Court Administration fund to DSS equal to one-half of such amount for that year. [S.B. No. 818](#) **died in the Human Services Committee.**

[S.B. No. 836](#) **AN ACT HOLDING HARMLESS MEDICAID CLIENTS AND PROVIDERS AFFECTED BY AGENCY COMPUTER ERRORS.** This bill would have prohibited penalties against Medicaid providers or clients due to delays or errors caused by the conversion by the Department of Social Services to a new computer system. [S.B. No. 836](#) **died in the Human Services Committee.**

[S.B. No. 876](#) **AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES** This bill would have implemented the Governor's recommendations for General Obligation (GO) bonds, Special Tax Obligation (STO) bonds, and

Clean Water Revenue (CWF) fund bonds in FY 20 and FY 21. Among its various provisions, the bill would have authorized up to \$1.38 billion for FY 20 and \$1.24 billion for FY 21 in state general obligation (GO) bonds for state capital projects and grant programs, including school construction, housing development and rehabilitation programs, and municipal aid. It also would have cancelled or reduced approximately \$3.4 million in GO bond authorizations. [S.B. No. 876](#) **died on the Senate Calendar.** *Note:* The General Assembly is planning to meet in Special Session to take up a bond authorization and adjustment bill.

[S.B. No. 878](#) **AN ACT ENHANCING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS** This bill would have expanded the authority of executive branch state and quasi-public agencies to enter into contracts with private entities to design, develop, finance, construct, operate, or maintain one or more revenue-generating public infrastructure projects (i.e., public-private partnerships or P3s) by increasing the limit on the number of P3s that can be authorized from five to seven projects with project approvals extending to December 1, 2022. [S.B. No. 878](#) **died on the Senate Calendar.**

[S.B. No. 895](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF IN-HOME COUNSELING PROVIDED BY A HOME HEALTH CARE AGENCY** This bill would have provided Medicaid coverage for behavioral counseling provided to Medicaid beneficiaries in their homes by licensed social workers employed by home health care agencies. [S.B. No. 895](#) **died in the Human Services Committee.**

[S.B. No. 897](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING A MEDICAID RECIPIENT'S RIGHT TO SELECT A CAREGIVER** This bill would have allowed a Medicaid beneficiary who directs his or her own care to choose a qualified caregiver regardless of whether such caregiver is an employee of an agency that has a contract with the Department of Social Services. [S.B. No. 897](#) **died in the Human Services Committee.**

[S.B. No. 917](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS** This bill would have expanded the requirements for privatizing state services, including the (1) contracts and agencies subject to the state's privatization law and (2) steps agencies must take to comply with the law. Among its various provisions, the bill would have: (1) expanded the definition of "privatization contract" to include procurement contracts that will require subsequent related services of more than \$50,000 per year; (2) subjected quasi-public agencies to the state's privatization law; (3) required state and quasi-public agencies that enter into privatization contracts due to insufficient staffing levels to submit plans for hiring more state employees; (4) prohibited state and quasi-public agencies from entering into a privatization contract without the attorney general's formal approval; and (5) added additional requirements to the state agency budgeting process concerning estimates for funding additional positions in lieu of privatization. [S.B. No. 917](#) **died in the Senate.**

[S.B. No. 938](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING STATE AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH PROBATE COURT ORDERS** This bill would have required each state agency to follow any order, denial or decree of a Probate Court that is applicable to a determination made by the state agency, and clarify that a state agency has standing to appeal any such order, denial or decree to the Superior Court with respect to such order's applicability to the state agency's determination. [S.B. No. 938](#) **died in the Judiciary Committee.**

[S.B. No. 939](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING PSYCHIATRIC COMMITMENT EVALUATIONS** The bill would have reduced the number of court-appointed licensed physicians, one of whom must be a psychiatrist, from two to only one court-appointed licensed psychiatrist required to evaluate a person before a probate court could order that person's involuntary commitment to a psychiatric hospital. As in current law, the psychiatrist would be required to be licensed and practicing in the state for one year, and could not be (1) connected to the psychiatric hospital to which the person may be committed or (2) related to the involved parties by blood or marriage. [S.B. No. 939](#) **died on the House Calendar.**

S.B. No. 943 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID TREATMENT OF AN INACCESSIBLE ASSET. This bill would have allowed a person to become eligible for Medicaid if he or she otherwise qualifies but for one inaccessible asset that cannot be liquidated in fewer than thirty days. **S.B. No. 943 died in the Human Services Committee.**

S.B. No. 946 AN ACT CONCERNING DEADLINES APPLICABLE TO HEARING DECISIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES. This bill would have extended the deadline for the Department of Social Services from 60 to 90 days to issue a final decision on an administrative appeal and allowed the aggrieved party to bring action in Superior Court if the department failed to meet the deadline. **S.B. No. 946 died in the Human Services Committee.**

S.B. No. 1006 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE PHARMACY AND DRUG CONTROL STATUTES This bill would have made changes to the laws that govern pharmacies that dispense or compound sterile pharmaceuticals including requiring state-licensed and institutional compounding pharmacies to designate a pharmacist responsible for overseeing compounding activities. Among its various provisions, the bill would have: (1) required state-licensed pharmacies to report to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) any administrative or legal action commenced against them by a state or federal regulatory agency or accreditation entity; and (2) reclassified on the state's controlled substances schedule federally approved medical marijuana products. **S.B. No. 1006 died on the Senate Calendar.**

S.B. No. 1035 AN ACT AUTHORIZING DEEMED STATUS LICENSE RENEWALS FOR CERTAIN NONPROFIT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS Specifically concerning the Department of Developmental Services in section 7 of the bill, it would have required the department to allow an optional process for a person, firm or corporation that operates, wishes to operate, or wishes to renew a license to operate a community living arrangement to be granted a "deemed status" license. A "deemed status" license would be issued if the DDS qualified provider submitted evidence that it had been accredited as a provider of services within the immediately preceding twelve-month period by a national accrediting organization that the department had found had standards that are more or at least as stringent for obtaining accreditation as the state requirements for obtaining a license. Also the bill would have allowed the department in renewing a provider's license to waive any inspection and investigation required and the provider would be "deemed" to have satisfied the requirements of licensure. Such "deemed status" license would be valid for two years and would not be transferable. The new provisions in the bill would not limit the department's authority to inspect any applicant, suspend or revoke any license or "deemed status" license. In various other sections of the bill it would have required the Departments of Children and Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health, and Social Services to allow "deemed status" licensing for their residential facilities. **S.B. No. 1035 died in the Public Health Committee.**

S.B. No. 1051 AN ACT STRENGTHENING HOME CARE SERVICES Among the bill's various provisions; it would have required the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to establish and maintain a directory of homemaker-companion agency employees and required homemaker-companion agencies to submit information on each employee. It would have required agencies to submit annual cost reports and audited financial statements to DCP. The bill would have required DCP to make certain information from the directory available to the public but generally prohibited the disclosure of any information that is not a public record. The bill also would have required homemaker-companion agencies to provide paid trainings to employees in various topics and ensure that trainings are provided by a trainer with experience in workforce training in the home care industry. **S.B. No. 1051 died on the Senate Calendar.**

HOUSE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

H.B. No. 5165 AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR PROSPECTIVE YOUTH CAMP EMPLOYEES This bill would have required each person who conducts or maintains a youth camp, to (1) require a prospective employee to submit to a background check before extending an employment offer to such person, (2) maintain a paper or electronic copy of any materials obtained during a background check, and (3) make these records available for inspection upon request of the Office of Early Childhood. The background check would be required to verify the prospective employee's Social Security number and include a review, based on the prospective employee's name and date of birth, of (1) the child abuse and neglect registry, (2) state and national sexual offender registry databases, (3) criminal conviction information obtained through a search of current criminal public records in the state, and (4) any other information needed to evaluate the suitability of the prospective employee. **H.B. No. 5165 died on the House Calendar.**

H.B. No. 5385 AN ACT REQUIRING THE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS This bill would have prohibited the owner or operator of a full-service restaurant from providing a customer a single-use plastic straw unless the customer requests one. It explicitly requires the owner or operator to provide a single-use plastic straw to a person with a disability upon request. A municipal ordinance or rule that further restricts a full-service restaurant from providing customers single-use plastic straws could not prohibit a restaurant owner or operator from providing a single-use plastic straw to a person with a disability. **H.B. No. 5385 died on the House floor.**

H.B. No. 5418 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD This bill would have transferred the authority for granting competitive bidding waivers for personal service agreements (PSAs) from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to the State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB). It also would have limited the reasons for which these waivers may be granted. In addition, the bill would have subjected the offices of the attorney general, secretary of the state, state comptroller, and state treasurer and the constituent units of higher education to the board's full authority. The bill would have added a certification component to the procurement and project management education and training program required by existing law and required certain employees to achieve certification, rather than only participate in training. The bill required SCSB to appoint a chief procurement auditor to, among other things, conduct the board's triennial audits of state contracting agencies. **H.B. No. 5418 died in the Appropriations Committee.**

H.B. No. 5442 AN ACT ADDING CHRONIC PAIN AS A DEBILITATING MEDICAL CONDITION FOR THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA BY A QUALIFYING PATIENT. This proposed bill would have allowed for the palliative use of marijuana for qualifying patients with chronic pain. **H.B. No. 5442 died in the Public Health Committee.**

H.B. No. 5500 AN ACT CONCERNING POLICIES TO LIMIT STATE FLEET VEHICLE USE This bill would have prohibited any policies governing state fleet vehicle use from being superseded by subsequent collective bargaining agreements. **H.B. No. 5500 died in the Government Administration and Elections Committee.**

H.B. No. 5505 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UPDATING OF STATE FORMS AND APPLICATIONS TO INCLUDE A NONBINARY GENDER OPTION This bill would have required each state agency to update all printed and electronic public forms and applications that require a person to indicate a gender to include a non-binary option, which is currently undefined in state statutes and the bill. The bill did not establish a deadline for updating these forms. **H.B. No. 5505 died on the House Calendar.**

H.B. No. 5627 AN ACT EXTENDING THE PERIOD A CHILD, STEPCHILD OR OTHER DEPENDENT CHILD MAY RETAIN DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE UNDER A PARENT'S HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY This bill would have required certain insurance policies that provide dental coverage to continue such coverage for a child, stepchild, or other dependent child until the policy anniversary date on or after the earlier of the child's 26th birthday or the date the child obtains coverage through his or her own employment. **H.B. No. 5627 died on the House Calendar.**

H.B. No. 5850 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE PURCHASE OF SERVICE ANIMALS This bill would have required health insurance coverage for the purchase of medically-necessary service animals. **H.B. No. 5850 died in the Appropriations Committee.**

H.B. No. 5898 AN ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS This bill would have allowed a patient who (1) was an adult, (2) was competent, (3) was a resident of Connecticut, (4) had been determined by the patient's attending physician to have a terminal illness, and (5) had voluntarily expressed his or her wish to receive aid in dying, to request aid in dying by making two written requests to such patient's attending physician. The bill's various provisions detailed the parameters under which aid in dying would be able to be provided legally to a patient. **H.B. No. 5898 died in the Public Health Committee.**

H.B. No. 6113 AN ACT PROHIBITING EMPLOYERS FROM INQUIRING ABOUT DATE OF BIRTH OR DATE OF GRADUATION ON EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS This bill would have made it a discriminatory employment practice for an employer, or the employer's agent, to request or require a prospective employee's age, birth date, or graduation date on an initial employment application, unless it was for a bona fide occupational qualification or need. Persons aggrieved by a discriminatory practice may file a complaint alleging such discrimination with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. **H.B. No. 6113 died on the House Calendar.**

H.B. No. 6162 AN ACT CONCERNING THE FLEET REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES OWNED BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES This proposed bill would have permitted fleet registration of motor vehicles for nonprofit organizations and businesses. **H.B. No. 6162 died in the Transportation Committee.**

H.B. No. 6168 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY A CONSERVED PERSON'S RIGHT TO INTERACT WITH OTHERS This bill would have established a task force to study how best to ensure the rights of conserved persons to interact with others. **H.B. No. 6168 died on the House Calendar.**

H.B. No. 6171 ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF MEDICAID-FUNDED STATE PROGRAMS This bill would have required the Department of Social Services to study and report on the efficacy of Medicaid-funded programs. **H.B. No. 6171 died on the House Calendar.**

H.B. No. 6173 AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM This bill would have expanded eligibility for persons with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders to participate in the state's Respite Care Program by increasing the program's annual (1) income limit from \$46,897 to \$50,000 and (2) liquid asset limit from \$124,679 to \$125,000. **H.B. No. 6173 died in the Appropriations Committee.**

H.B. No. 6283 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UTILIZATION OF BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES This bill would have required the Office of Policy and Management to include in the inventories of state real property the number of state employees per square foot in buildings occupied by executive branch agencies. **H.B. No. 6283 died in the Government Administration and Elections Committee.**

H.B. No. 6352 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ZONING OF COMMUNITY RESIDENCES AND CHILDCARE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES This bill would have modified how the distance between certain group homes would be measured under the law that requires such homes to be separated by at least 1,000 feet, unless the local zoning authority waives the requirement. Because the current statute offers no guidance on how the 1,000 foot measurement is to be taken, courts generally have used the straight line method of measuring distance (i.e., measuring along the shortest straight line connecting properties, regardless of intervening obstacles). The bill would have required the distance between these group homes to instead be measured using either the pedestrian or roadway method (i.e., distance between where the sidewalk or road meets the group homes' driveways), whichever yields a shorter measurement. **H.B. No. 6352 died on the House Calendar.**

H.B. No. 6365 AN ACT ALLOWING PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND THEIR FAMILIES TO ACCESS THE REGISTRY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES EMPLOYEES WHO WERE TERMINATED OR SEPARATED FROM EMPLOYMENT AS A RESULT OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT The bill would have required the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to allow persons with intellectual disability and their family or legal guardian to have access to the department's abuse and neglect registry of former DDS and DDS qualified provider employees, who have been terminated or left employment because of substantiated abuse or neglect. The bill did not state for what purpose persons with intellectual disability, their families or legal guardians would need access to this registry. By allowing unrestricted access to the public as opposed to restricted access for state agencies and employers for purposes of background checks, this bill would have changed the DDS abuse and neglect registry into a "public-facing registry" similar to Connecticut's Sex Offender Registry. Currently, access to the DDS abuse and neglect registry is restricted to (1) Authorized state agencies for the purpose of protective service determinations; (2) employers who employ employees to provide services to an individual who receives services or funding from DDS; (3) the Departments of Children and Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Social Services, for the purpose of determining whether an applicant for employment appears on the registry; and (4) charitable organizations that recruit volunteers to support programs for persons with intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder. **H.B. No. 6365 died in the Public Health Committee.**

H.B. No. 6527 AN ACT REQUIRING ADDITIONAL OVERSIGHT OVER GROUP HOMES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES This proposed bill would have required the Department of Developmental Services to provide unspecified additional oversight over group homes. **H.B. No. 6527 died in the Public Health Committee.**

H.B. No. 6530 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN ALL BUILDINGS OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT This bill would have required that state-owned or -leased office buildings occupied full-time by state employees during normal business hours have at least one: (1) automatic external defibrillator ("AED") maintained in a central location and (2) employee at the building present during normal business hours who is trained in AED use. **H.B. No. 6530 died on the Senate Calendar.**

H.B. No. 6580 AN ACT CONCERNING ILLEGAL PARKING IN A SPACE RESERVED FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND OR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES This proposed bill would have increased the fines for illegally parking in a space reserved for persons who are blind or persons with disabilities. **H.B. No. 6580 died in the Transportation Committee.**

H.B. No. 6667 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO STATE AGENCY DATA HELD BY STATE CONTRACTORS This bill would have permitted the Auditors of Public Accounts to access any information concerning a state agency that is held by a state contractor and required state contracts to contain a provision

authorizing state agencies to access any of their data held by a contractor. [H.B. No. 6667](#) died in the **Government Administration and Elections Committee**.

[H.B. No. 6697](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMISSIBILITY OF STATEMENTS MADE BY A PERSON WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY IN A CRIMINAL OR JUVENILE PROCEEDING** This proposed bill would have required that a statement made by a person with an intellectual or developmental disability, including autism, at the time of the offense be admissible in a criminal or juvenile proceeding. [H.B. No. 6697](#) died in the **Judiciary Committee**.

[H.B. No. 6896](#) **AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN ABLE-BODIED MEDICAID RECIPIENTS TO WORK OR VOLUNTEER THEIR SERVICES** This proposed bill would have required able-bodied Medicaid recipients without dependents to work or volunteer in order to receive benefits. [H.B. No. 6896](#) died in the **Human Services Committee**.

[H.B. No. 6910](#) **AN ACT IMPROVING ANTI-HARASSMENT TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES** This proposed bill would have improved anti-harassment training of employees and increased penalties for employers that fail to protect employees from harassment at work. [H.B. No. 6910](#) died in the **Labor and Public Employees Committee**.

[H.B. No. 6930](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING UNION ACCESS TO AND NOTIFICATION OF NEW PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ORIENTATIONS** This bill would have provided unions with access to and notice of employee orientations for new public employees so the unions could explain their role and benefits offered and to sign up new members. [H.B. No. 6930](#) died in **Labor and Public Employees Committee**.

[H.B. No. 6935](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE TO JOIN OR SUPPORT A UNION** This bill would have established requirements, subject to certain limitations and conditions, for public employers (i.e., the state, municipalities, and local or regional boards of education) to provide public employee unions with: (1) certain information about newly hired and current employees; (2) access to new employee orientations; and (3) access to (a) the public employees that they represent and (b) government buildings and facilities to conduct meetings with bargaining unit members. The bill would have established certain requirements and criteria related to payroll deductions for dues paid to public employee organizations (e.g., unions). The bill also would have prohibited public employers from deterring or discouraging public employees or job applicants from (1) becoming or remaining members of an employee organization, (2) authorizing representation by an employee organization, or (3) authorizing dues deductions to an employee organization. In addition, the bill would have codified federal case law by explicitly (1) allowing a state employee to opt out of membership in an employee organization; (2) exempting such an employee from paying the organization, as a condition of employment, an amount equal to the regular dues, fees, and assessments charged to a member (i.e., "agency fees"); and (3) giving a municipal employee the right not to join an employee organization. [H.B. No. 6935](#) died on the **Senate Calendar**.

[H.B. No. 6957](#) **AN ACT REQUIRING ACCESSIBILITY EQUIPMENT TO ASSIST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN CERTAIN STATE BUILDINGS** This bill would have required that the State Building Code be revised to require that any state-owned building constructed or renovated include accessibility equipment for persons with disabilities as part of the project. It also would have prohibited the Department of Administrative Services from entering a lease agreement for use of a building by any state agency or entity unless the building has accessibility equipment, including wheelchair ramps, power-assist doors, and accessible restrooms and elevators, for persons with disabilities. [H.B. No. 6957](#) died on the **House Calendar**.

[H.B. No. 7001](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYERS OF THE PLACEMENT OF AN EMPLOYEE ON THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY** This bill

requires the Commissioner of Children and Families, after making a recommendation that an person be added to the child abuse and neglect registry if, after an investigation, the person is found to have abused or neglected a child and poses a risk to the health, safety, or well-being of children, to make a reasonable effort to determine whether person's employment requires him or her to have regular and direct contact with, and provide services to or on behalf of, children. If so, the commissioner may notify the individual's employer of the employee's placement on the child abuse and neglect registry. [H.B. No. 7001](#) **died on the Senate Calendar.**

[H.B. No. 7043](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING BREASTFEEDING IN THE WORKPLACE** This bill would have established certain criteria that an employer-provided area must meet for employees expressing breast milk. The bill specified that, as long as there is no undue hardship, this area must be free from intrusion and shielded from the public while the employee expresses her milk. It also required the area to (1) include or be near a refrigerator or employee-provided portable cold storage device in which the employee can store her breast milk and (2) have access to an electrical outlet. [H.B. No. 7043](#) **died on the Senate Calendar.**

[H.B. No. 7044](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE** This bill would have expanded the possible remedies, beyond the hiring or reinstatement of a complainant, with or without back pay, which the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) could order in cases of discriminatory employment practice to include promotion and actual incurred costs such as attorney's fees. It also would have expanded the list of sexual harassment training topics that CHRO could require certain employers to provide. Finally, the bill would have prohibited an employer from resolving a sexual harassment case by changing the terms and conditions of the complainant's employment (such as moving the complainant to a different shift) without his or her written permission. [H.B. No. 7044](#) **died on the House Calendar.**

[H.B. No. 7071](#) **AN ACT PROVIDING AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR INDIVIDUALS CARING FOR ELDERLY PERSONS, CHILDREN OR DISABLED PERSONS** This bill would have established state income tax deductions for the cost of ordinary and necessary expenses in caring for (a) someone age 70 or older related to the taxpayer by blood, adoption, or marriage, or (b) a qualifying spouse or dependent of the taxpayer who is physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself; or a qualifying child under the age of 13. [H.B. No. 7071](#) **died in the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.**

[H.B. No. 7092](#) **AN ACT EXPANDING THE KATIE BECKETT WAIVER PROGRAM** The bill would have allowed the Department of Social Services (DSS) to increase capacity and reduce the wait list for the Katie Beckett Medicaid waiver program that provides home and community-based services to persons who (1) are institutionalized or at risk of institutionalization; (2) are twenty-one years of age or younger; (3) have a physical disability and may also have a co-occurring developmental disability; and (4) meet the financial eligibility criteria established for the waiver program. [H.B. No. 7092](#) **died on the House Calendar.**

[H.B. No. 7100](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING NONEMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS** This bill would have required a nursing home to transport non-ambulatory residents to their family members' homes if (1) a physician approved it, (2) the nursing home had available vehicles equipped to transport such residents, and (3) the family members lived within the same municipality as the nursing home. The nursing home could not charge the resident more than its cost for providing the transportation. [H.B. No. 7100](#) **died on the House Calendar.**

[H.B. No. 7123](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING TELEPHONE WAIT TIMES FOR PERSONS CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES** The bill would have required the Department of Social Services (DSS) to deploy staff and resources as necessary to ensure that no person contacting DSS by telephone waits more than sixty minutes to speak with a DSS staff member or receive a call back from a staff member. The department would be required to contract for and utilize advanced telecommunications technology that allowed the department to (1) track incoming calls by number, date and time; and (2) send an automated

message to a caller every five minutes about the option of receiving a call back from department staff in an estimated amount of time not to exceed sixty minutes. [H.B. No. 7123](#) died in the Human Services Committee.

[H.B. No. 7124](#) AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MAMMOGRAMS AND BREAST ULTRASOUNDS This bill would have expanded coverage for ultrasound screenings under certain health insurance policies to include any woman whose physician recommends one and who is (1) age 40 and older, (2) has a family history or prior personal history of breast cancer, or (3) has a prior personal history of benign breast disease. [H.B. No. 7124](#) died on the House Calendar.

[H.B. No. 7166](#) AN ACT CONCERNING NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES Under this bill, the Department of Social Services (DSS) would have required any transportation brokerage vendor contracting with DSS to provide nonemergency medical transportation to (1) make all reasonable efforts to provide rides in a timely manner; and (2) educate HUSKY Health plan (i.e., Medicaid and the state children's health insurance program) members on how to obtain an alternative ride if the vendor's arranged ride does not arrive as scheduled. It also requires DSS to monitor compliance with these requirements, including DSS on-site reviews with the vendor, and ensuring that certain additional data is provided in a vendor's monthly reports. [H.B. No. 7166](#) died on the Senate Calendar.

[H.B. No. 7167](#) AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF MILLER TRUSTS TO OBTAIN MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY This bill would have authorized Medicaid applicants to utilize a Miller Trust to hold excess income for the purpose of qualifying for Medicaid. [H.B. No. 7167](#) died in the Human Services Committee.

[H.B. No. 7188](#) AN ACT CONCERNING A PROPERTY OWNER'S LIABILITY FOR THE EXPENSES OF REMOVING A FALLEN TREE OR LIMB This bill would have established conditions under which a land owner is presumed liable for the expenses of removing a tree or tree limb that fell from his or her property onto an adjoining private owner's land. It would have made the land owner liable if he or she failed to act within 90 days after the adjoining owner notified him or her that, based on an arborist's inspection, a tree or limb on the property was likely to fall within five years. The bill also specified how the presumption might be rebutted. [H.B. No. 7188](#) died in the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

[H.B. No. 7214](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES This bill would have (1) prohibited the physical restraint of a student who cannot be safely restrained because such restraint is medically contraindicated, (2) required school principals to provide verbal and written notification to the parent or guardian of any student placed in physical restraint or seclusion, (3) required continual rather than frequent monitoring of a student placed in involuntary seclusion, and (4) required the presence of a student's assigned school paraprofessional if such student is placed in physical restraint or seclusion. [H.B. No. 7214](#) died in the Children's Committee.

[H.B. No. 7231](#) AN ACT EXPANDING THE ADULT FAMILY LIVING-FOSTER CARE PROGRAM TO PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES This bill would have required the Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Developmental Services, to expand the Adult Family Living-Foster Care program to include certain persons with intellectual disabilities. The Adult Family Living-Foster Care program is a program in which a participant in the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly or the personal care attendant Medicaid waiver program receives personal care and support services from a principal caregiver who (A) lives with such participant in a private home, and (B) receives a stipend for the provision of such services. [H.B. No. 7231](#) died in the Human Services Committee.

[H.B. No. 7232](#) AN ACT ENHANCING THE SAFETY OF NURSING HOME RESIDENTS WITH VIDEO CAMERAS The bill would have required that each nursing home at the request of a resident or the

authorized representative of a resident, install a video camera in such resident's room, provided: (1) The camera would be installed in a location so that it only recorded the resident's living quarters, (2) the resident or such resident's representative would sign any required permissions to ensure the video camera recording complies with the provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996, (3) the resident would sign a waiver of liability holding the nursing home harmless for any unlawful intrusion by a person not employed by the nursing home on the nursing home's Internet server that may compromise the privacy of any such video camera recording, and (4) the resident or such resident's representative would (A) monitor the video camera recordings, either in person or remotely, (B) report to nursing home staff any recording that raises concerns about the resident's safety, and (C) maintain for at least one year an unedited copy of the video camera recording for use by nursing home staff or law enforcement to investigate any safety concerns that arise as a result of the recording. [H.B. No. 7232](#) **died in the Human Services Committee.**

[H.B. No. 7233](#) **AN ACT PROMOTING EFFICIENCY IN STATE BENEFIT PROGRAMS** The bill would have required the Commissioners of Correction, Children and Families, Developmental Services, Early Childhood, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Rehabilitation Services and Social Services to share interagency reports monthly concerning: (1) Incidences of fraud committed by beneficiaries of the state benefit programs administered by these commissioners, (2) incarceration or death of state residents receiving such benefits, and (3) best practices regarding cost efficiencies. The commissioners would be required to report annually to the Appropriations and Human Services Committee on savings realized by each department resulting from the interagency reports. [H.B. No. 7233](#) **died in the Human Services Committee.**


[H.B. No. 7234](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS BY NURSING HOME RESIDENTS TO COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION** The bill would have required all providers of public transportation with a route serving an area that includes a nursing home to provide a resident of a nursing home with transportation and not limit destination choices within their routes for such resident, provided (1) the nursing home resident provides a current certification signed by a licensed health care professional that travel outside of the nursing home is not medically contraindicated for the resident, (2) the provider of public transportation has a vehicle equipped to serve the transportation needs of nursing home residents with physical disabilities, and (3) the nursing home resident pays any reasonable fare set by the provider of public transportation. [H.B. No. 7234](#) **died in the Human Services Committee.**

[H.B. No. 7235](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS BY BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION** The bill would have required that the Department of Administrative Services' information and telecommunications systems strategic plan be amended to ensure access to state agency websites and public safety notices in audio formats for blind and visually impaired persons. [H.B. No. 7235](#) **died on the House Calendar.**

[H.B. No. 7243](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY SAFETY AND SECURITY POLICIES** This bill would have required transportation network companies (TNCs) (e.g., Uber and Lyft) to adopt rider safety and security policies and for TNC drivers to comply with them. A TNC's policies would have been required to: (1) establish a central telephone number for riders and other individuals to contact the company in emergencies and situations threatening a rider's safety or security, including when a rider may be a danger to himself or herself or another individual; (2) ensure that calls to the central telephone number are answered immediately with an option for the caller to speak immediately with a representative; and (3) establish a protocol to provide prompt responses to emergencies and other situations. [H.B. No. 7243](#) **died in the Judiciary Committee.**

[H.B. No. 7279](#) **AN ACT ALLOWING DENTISTS TO TEST FOR DIABETES** This bill would have allowed with a patient's consent, a dentist to administer a finger-stick diabetes test for a patient who has risk factors for diabetes but has not been diagnosed. [H.B. No. 7279](#) **died in the Public Health Committee.**

H.B. No. 7336 AN ACT EXPANDING MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE OPTIONS UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM The bill would have required the Departments of Children and Families, Social Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services when setting or changing rates for services under the Behavioral Health Partnership to (1) ensure rates are equitable in different regions for the same services, and (2) seek to reduce costs and expand treatment options by expanding the types of certified or licensed providers that may provide treatment under the medical assistance program. **H.B. No. 7336 died in the Human Services Committee.**

We hope that this end of session summary is helpful. Copies of, or additional information on, 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 in the  **Quick Bill Search** at the bottom of the page and then click on “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, please contact us at Rod.OConnor@ct.gov or Krista.Ostaszewski@ct.gov with any questions.