



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 87**

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6975

*House of Representatives, March 12, 2025*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REQUIRING A BIENNIAL STUDY OF PAYMENT PARITY FOR SERVICES UNDER CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES IN THE STATE AND THE HUSKY HEALTH PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Health
- 2 Strategy shall study, in consultation with the Insurance Commissioner
- 3 and the Commissioner of Social Services, whether payment parity exists
- 4 between (1) providers of mental health services and providers of health
- 5 care services covered under individual or group health insurance
- 6 policies in this state providing coverage of the type specified in
- 7 subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469 of the general
- 8 statutes, (2) providers of mental health services and providers of health
- 9 care services covered under the HUSKY Health program, and (3)
- 10 providers of mental health services covered under the HUSKY Health
- 11 program and providers of such services covered under individual or
- 12 group health insurance policies in this state providing coverage of the

13 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469  
14 of the general statutes. Not later than January 1, 2026, and biennially  
15 thereafter, the Commissioner of Health Strategy shall report, in  
16 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
17 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
18 cognizance of matters relating to human services, insurance, public  
19 health and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies regarding  
20 the results of the study.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

"(NEW)" was added for conformity with standard drafting conventions.

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Office of Health Strategy	GF - Cost	250,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

The bill results in a biennial cost of \$250,000 to the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to contract a consultant to complete the study. OHS is tasked with studying payment parity amongst mental health care providers, and reporting the findings to the Appropriations, Human Services, Insurance, and Public Health committees.

#### **The Out Years**

The ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future, as the bill requires OHS to complete the study every two years.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6975*****AN ACT REQUIRING A BIENNIAL STUDY OF PAYMENT PARITY FOR SERVICES UNDER CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES IN THE STATE AND THE HUSKY HEALTH PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) commissioner, in consultation with the insurance and social services commissioners, to complete studies every two years on whether payment parity exists between the following:

1. providers of mental health services and providers of other health care services covered under commercial health insurance (see below);
2. these providers for services covered under the HUSKY Health program (i.e., Medicaid and the state children's health insurance program); and
3. providers of mental health services covered under HUSKY and commercial health insurance.

For commercial health insurance, the study must address in-state individual and group policies covering (1) basic hospital expenses; (2) basic medical-surgical expenses; (3) major medical expenses; or (4) hospital or medical services, including those provided under an HMO plan.

Under the bill, the OHS commissioner must report by January 1, 2026, and every two years after that, to the Appropriations, Human Services, Insurance, and Public Health committees. (OHS completed a similar one-time study in 2024, as required by PA 22-47, § 58.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32    Nay 0    (03/05/2025)