

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6487

AN ACT REQUIRING THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TO REVIEW THE COSTS OF PROVIDING CERTAIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH

Title: INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

Vote Date: 3/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/18/2025

File No.:

Disclaimer: *The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep Dathan

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires the Auditors of Public Accounts, in conjunction with OPM, to conduct a review of the existing funding structure for providing residential and day programs, including work programs, to individuals with intellectual disabilities who are clients of DDS, and who receive 24-hour residential services, both public and private. The Auditors and OPM are required to compare the costs of private providers providing these residential and day programs versus those provided by the state and determine the factors that impact the difference in cost. The bill also looks to examine the costs of providing residential and day programs to clients based on their level of need and to assess the quality of care of services in a sampling of 24-hour residential settings, both public and private. The Auditors and OPM are also to recommend the most cost-effective, quality-driven system for providing residential care to and are required to submit a report to the Government Oversight Committee with the results of their review by February 15th, 2026.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Vincent Candelora: CT House Republican Caucus, Minority Leader:

Opposes this legislation because they feel that the auditors of public accounts should not be tasked with this matter as it exceeds the scope of what they do. They feel that the auditors should stay focused on ensuring efficiency and accountability within the state government. Rep. Candelora supports reestablishing the Program Review Committee to take on "evaluating the costs and benefits of certain programs, or how best to provide the most effective funding", and the bill should consider reestablishing the PRI committee rather than diverting our state Auditors from their focus.

John Geragosian, Craig Miner: Auditors of Public Accounts, CT

Opposes this bill because it would force them to work with DDS to complete an audit would threaten OPM's independence under Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards. They are also concerned by the Feb '26 timeline as it would force them into a crunch on their current work and would stretch them very thin in preparation of meeting the deadline. Ultimately, they feel it is unrealistic to fulfil this obligation.

Jeffrey Beckham: Secretary, Office of Policy and Management:

Opposes this legislation because OPM does not traditionally handle matters relating to the medical field. This bill would require OPM to divert resources not already at their disposal towards fulfilling these obligations. They also feel that the Feb '26 timeline is simply not feasible with the resources they currently have or expect to have.

Walter Glomb: Executive Director, Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities:

Supports this bill because it seeks to review the funding structure that enables DDS to provide care based on level of need to developmentally disabled individuals, specifically residential and day programs. He hopes to include all individuals who are receiving services from DDS, especially those receiving supported housing. They foresee significant issues with the management of Medicaid expenditures in CT and feel that this bill can help to keep the department operational.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Collette Bement, Ph.D.: Doctor, Mother:

Supports this legislation because it would address the ballooning cost of care and the stagnant wages of the individuals in the field. She knows from experience both as a medical professional and a mother of an adult with autism that providers of care are earning less which could impact talent acquisition and retention. She provided detailed statistics to back up her testimony.

Ben Shaiken: CT Community Nonprofit Alliance, Director of Government Relations:

Supports this bill because it would mandate a review of the cost and quality differential between state operated and nonprofit operated care facilities in CT. The industry is operating on very old data as the last study of this type was conducted 12 years ago. This study would help to identify areas for improvement and ways to spend more efficiently in 2025.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Jodi Anderson: Mother:

Opposes this legislation because she feels, as someone who takes care of a developmentally disabled individual, that any funds that go towards helping those with special needs should go directly to services that support the special needs community, not administrative matters.

Reported by: Greg Wolf, Griffin Olshan

Date: 3/21/25