



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1251

January Session, 2025



***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING A DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES, LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF MEDICAID STATE
PLAN AMENDMENTS AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING TIMELY
WHEELCHAIR REPAIR STANDARDS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) There shall be within the Department of [Aging and Disability
4 Services] Motor Vehicles a unit for the purpose of evaluating and
5 training persons with disabilities in the operation of motor vehicles.
6 There shall be assigned to the driver training unit for persons with
7 disabilities such staff as is necessary for the orderly administration of
8 the driver training program for persons with disabilities. The personnel
9 assigned to the driver training unit for persons with disabilities shall,
10 while engaged in the evaluation, [or] instruction or examination of a
11 person with disabilities, have the authority and immunities with respect
12 to such activities as are granted under the general statutes to motor
13 vehicle inspectors. Said Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may permit a
14 person whose license has been withdrawn as a result of a condition that
15 makes such person eligible for evaluation and training under this
16 section to operate a motor vehicle while accompanied by personnel

17 assigned to the driver training unit for persons with disabilities. [When
18 a person with disabilities has successfully completed the driver training
19 program for persons with disabilities, the Department of Aging and
20 Disability Services shall certify such completion in writing to the
21 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and shall recommend any license
22 restrictions or limitations to be placed on the license of such person. The
23 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may accept such certification in lieu of
24 the driving skills portion of the examination prescribed under
25 subsection (e) of section 14-36. If such person with disabilities has met
26 all other requirements for obtaining a license, the Commissioner of
27 Motor Vehicles shall issue a license with such restrictions recommended
28 by the Department of Aging and Disability Services.]

29 (b) Any resident of this state who has a serious physical or mental
30 disability which does not render the resident incapable of operating a
31 motor vehicle and who must utilize special equipment in order to
32 operate a motor vehicle and who cannot obtain instruction in the
33 operation of a motor vehicle through any alternate program, including,
34 but not limited to, other state, federal or privately operated drivers'
35 schools shall be eligible for instruction under the Department of [Aging
36 and Disability Services] Motor Vehicles driver training program for
37 persons with disabilities.

38 Sec. 2. Section 17b-8 of the general statutes is amended by adding
39 subsection (e) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

40 (NEW) (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this
41 section, the Commissioner of Social Services shall submit any Medicaid
42 state plan amendment not subject to the legislative approval process of
43 subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing committees of the
44 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
45 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services
46 not later than thirty days prior to the commissioner's submission of such
47 amendment for federal approval. Said committees may schedule a
48 hearing on such state plan amendment in accordance with subsection
49 (a) of this section not later than thirty days after receipt of such

50 amendment. If the committees schedule such hearing, the commissioner
51 shall not submit such state plan amendment for federal approval unless
52 the committees vote to approve the state plan amendment in accordance
53 with subsection (a) of this section. If the committees approve such state
54 plan amendment with amendments, the commissioner shall submit
55 such state plan amendment as amended by the committees.

56 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Commissioner of Social
57 Services shall submit any Medicaid state plan amendment subject to the
58 provisions of subsection (e) of section 17b-8 of the general statutes, as
59 amended by this act, for review to the Council on Medical Assistance
60 Program Oversight, established pursuant to section 17b-28 of the
61 general statutes, not later than thirty days prior to the commissioner's
62 submission of such amendment for federal approval.

63 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective November 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section,
64 (1) "authorized wheelchair dealer", "timely repair" and "wheelchair"
65 have the same meanings as provided in section 42-337 of the general
66 statutes; and (2) "systemic noncompliance" means the failure by an
67 authorized wheelchair dealer to meet timely repair requirements in
68 accordance with section 42-338 of the general statutes for more than five
69 per cent of repair requests in a thirty-day period.

70 (b) On and after November 1, 2025, it shall be an unfair or deceptive
71 act or practice pursuant to subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the
72 general statutes for an authorized wheelchair dealer whose repair
73 record meets the definition of systemic noncompliance to fail to comply
74 with timely repair requirements in accordance with section 42-338 of the
75 general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 14-11b |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 17b-8(e) |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | New section |
| Sec. 4 | <i>November 1, 2025</i> | New section |

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The title was changed; in Section 2(e), "schedule a vote" and "schedule such vote" were changed to "schedule a hearing" and "schedule such hearing" for consistency with the general statutes, and "it" was changed to "the state plan amendment in accordance with subsection (a) of this section" for clarity.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*