



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 Section 14-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the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. The [Said] Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may
14 permit a person whose license has been withdrawn as a result of a
15 condition that makes such person eligible for evaluation and training
16 under this section to operate a motor vehicle while accompanied by

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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	November 1, 2025	New section
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HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

JUD *Joint Favorable*

APP *Joint Favorable*