
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1380

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN THE STATE.

SUMMARY

This bill specifically prohibits health care providers from knowingly discriminating in providing health care services due to someone's race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, ancestry, intellectual disability, mental disability, learning disability, physical disability (including blindness), veteran status, or status as a domestic violence victim.

But the bill specifies that it does not (1) require the delivery of futile health care and services that conflict with a provider's professional judgment or ethical considerations, (2) affect the professional standard of care, or (3) interfere with public health planning.

The bill classifies discrimination by health care providers as a discriminatory practice under the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) laws. By doing so, the bill allows people aggrieved by these violations, or CHRO itself, to file a complaint with CHRO alleging discrimination. It gives people three years after the alleged discriminatory act to file the complaint, rather than 300 days as under current law for other types of discrimination.

Under the bill, a "health care provider" is any person, corporation, facility, or institution licensed by the state to provide health care services, or their officers, employees, or agents acting in the course and scope of their employment.

Under existing law, it is generally a discriminatory practice to deny someone, based on similar protected classes as listed above, equal accommodations in any place of public accommodation (that is, one that

caters to or offers its services, facilities, or goods to the general public), subject to lawful conditions and limitations that apply the same to everyone (CGS § 46a-64).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Related Federal Law

Federal law prohibits discrimination in federally funded health programs or activities based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex (42 U.S.C. § 18116).

Among other related laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination based on disability in public accommodations, specifically including private hospitals or health care provider offices (42 U.S.C. §§ 12181(7)(F) & 12182).

Related Bill

sSB 7, § 11 (File 604), favorably reported by the Public Health Committee, prohibits hospitals from basing the emergency medical services they provide to someone, or discriminating against them, based on several factors (similar to those under this bill), except to the extent that certain circumstances are medically significant to providing appropriate medical care.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/04/2025)