

---

## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 1416

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF LONG-TERM CARE OPTIONS FOR MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to expand Medicaid beneficiaries' access to home- and community-based long-term care. It also requires the state's Long-Term Care Planning Committee to study systems and methods of increasing this access, among other things.

Specifically, the bill requires the DSS commissioner to, beginning July 1, 2025, rebalance the state's strategic plan for Medicaid long-term care supports and services to increase Medicaid recipients' opportunities to receive home- or community-based care. The rebalanced plan must include (1) increased DSS outreach to Medicaid beneficiaries who may be eligible for the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly or home- and community-based care Medicaid waiver programs and (2) DSS assistance for beneficiaries completing applications for these programs.

The bill also requires the Long-Term Care Planning Committee (see BACKGROUND) to study ways to expand long-term care options for Medicaid beneficiaries, including allowing more people to receive care in home- or community-based settings rather than in skilled nursing facilities. The committee must report on the study and any recommended legislation or appropriations to expand long-term care options for Medicaid beneficiaries to the Aging, Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health committees by December 1, 2025. The report must include estimated state savings related to reducing care in skilled nursing facilities in favor of home- or community-based care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Long-Term Care Planning Committee***

The Long-Term Care Planning Committee consists of legislators and relevant agency officials tasked with exchanging information on long-term care issues, coordinating policy development, and creating the state's long-term care plan for all people in need of long-term care. The plan must integrate home- and community-based services, supportive housing, and nursing facilities. By law, DSS's strategic plan for Medicaid long-term care supports and services must be consistent with the Long-Term Care Planning Committee's long-term care plan.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea    22    Nay    0    (03/13/2025)