

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 25-154—sSB 1380**

*Judiciary Committee*

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

**SUMMARY:** This act 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 act 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 act classifies discrimination by health care providers as a discriminatory practice under the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) laws. By doing so, the act allows people aggrieved by these violations, or CHRO itself, to file a complaint with CHRO alleging discrimination.

Under the act, 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 Laws*

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).

## OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

### *Related Act*

PA 25-168, § 171, prohibits emergency departments or their providers from discriminating against a patient based on several factors (similar to those under this act) when providing emergency care. But it is not discrimination for the providers to consider any of these factors if they believe it is medically significant to providing appropriate care.