



Substitute House Bill No. 5481

Public Act No. 26-71

**AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM TO TREAT CERTAIN
MEDICAID PATIENTS AT A SHORT-TERM HOSPITAL SPECIAL
HOSPICE.**

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall develop a pilot program to identify and utilize a short-term hospital special hospice, licensed pursuant to section 19a-491 of the general statutes, to treat Medicaid patients with advanced illness who qualify for hospice and are clinically complex, high-acuity individuals that cannot be safely managed at home or in a skilled nursing facility, provided that such short-term hospital special hospice does not practice outside of the scope of its license without obtaining the appropriate license for the provision of care for such patients. Not later than January 15, 2027, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, human services and public health on the development of the pilot program, including any potential savings that may be achieved and recommendations for funding or statutory changes.

(b) Within funds specifically appropriated for this purpose, the

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Department of Social Services shall implement such pilot program not later than December 30, 2027.