

Public Health Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5239 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE INDEPENDENT

Title: MORTALITY REVIEW BOARD AND FATALITY REVIEW BOARD.

Vote Date: 3/3/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/23/2026

File No.: 39

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

HB 5239 addresses the overlap of responsibilities within the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') Independent Mortality Review Board the Fatality Review Board. Specifically, it will:

- Modify the DDS Independent Mortality Review Board's responsibilities by removing a statutory reference to Executive Order 57. This 2017 executive order established two boards that review and investigate certain deaths of people with intellectual disabilities under DDS care.
- Codify provisions of the executive order and generally merge the responsibilities of the two boards, thereby eliminating the need for the Fatality Review Board.
- Allow DDS to add members to the Independent Mortality Review board, it deems as beneficial, so long as the majority of the board's members are not DDS employees.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language makes a technical change.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services (DDS):

This bill seeks to update the law that outlines the responsibilities of an Independent Mortality Review Board within DDS along with including a reference to Executive Order 57 that was

implemented by Governor Malloy in 2017. The Executive Order includes the make-up and some responsibilities of an Independent Mortality Review Board and Fatality Review Board, outlining similar requirements for both entities.

To prevent duplication of these roles, clarifying and codifying are necessary to improve the review process and ensure that the Independent Mortality Review Board can focus on its specific duties. This would create a more efficient system that maintains accountability and strengthens oversight.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Diane Young-Rodney

Date: March 13, 2026