

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5304 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PREMIUM RATES.

Vote Date: 3/5/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill would allow an income tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums. It would also require the Dept. of Insurance to hold a public hearing for long-term care premium rate increase requests that exceed 10% and it would require that policyholders are provided with advance notice of any hearings.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

JFS Language (LCO 2768)

This removes Section 1, which would have established an income tax deduction for long-term care insurance premium rates and amends Sections 2 and 3 to require the Dept of Insurance to hold the public hearing relating to rate increases rather than the insurance company.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Mr. Michael Werner, Lead Aging Policy Analyst, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity: They are offering their comments in **support** of this bill. Nearly 100,000 residents have long-term care insurance and policyholders face a difficult choice, continue paying increasing premiums or stop paying and forfeit all benefits or reducing coverage to make premiums more manageable. Requiring a public hearing for significant premium increases and advance notice to policyholders ensures transparency, accountability, and consumer voice in a market where Connecticut resident have few options.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Mr. Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO: Their comments are in **support** of this proposal. Allowing an income tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums will reduce the financial burden for individuals and families who purchased these policies.

Mr. David Schwartz, Mr. Kenneth Kollmeyer, and Ms. Jan Kritzman: They offered their testimony and suggestions in **support** of this proposal. They offered a series of Connecticut General Statutes that they believe to be relevant to this bill and suggestions for proposed legislation. They offered to be available to discuss their proposals with the committee.

Mr. John Dillaway, Avon: He is **supporting** this bill and provided antidotal evidence concerning his own history with the long-term coverage he purchased.

Ms. Amelia Smith, Executive Board of the CT Alliance for Retired Americans: Her comments are in support of this legislation. She offered antidotal evidence of her own experiences with her Met Life policy and a number of premium increases.

Mr. Augustus Baron, Farmington: He indicates that he is **supportive** of the proposals made by Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Kollmeyer and Mr. Kritzman. He also provides evidence of experiences he and his spouse have had with their own insurer over a number of years.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Ms. Jenna Grasso, Policy Director of Bioscience Growth & State Spending, CBIA: They are in support of Section 1 of the bill, but they are **opposed** to Sections 2 and 3. Requiring public hearings would add unnecessary cost and complexity which could potentially increase premiums and reduce choices for consumers. While also raising concerns about protection for proprietary business information.

Mr. Eric George, President, IAC, Ms. Jill Rickard, Regional Vice President, ACLI, And Ms. Amanda Herrington, Executive Director, AHIP: They are **opposed** to Sections 2 and 3 of this bill. As private businesses that operate on actuarial principles, they are not in the business of holding public hearings. They base their decisions on actuarial data risk assessments and contractual obligations and not on public debate.

Ms. Judy Mandel, Newington: She **does not support** this proposal pointing out that these ideas have been tried in the past without success. She also outlines her own experiences with her own policy.

Ms. Joan Marie Holley: She doesn't take a position on this legislation one way or the other. She does offer her own comments about the experience she has been having with her own insurance company.

Reported by: Richard Ferrari, Assist. Clerk
Reviewed by: Elizabeth Aheart, Clerk

Date: 3/16/2026