Public Health Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-451
Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR T-CELL THERAPY AND OTHER GENE THERAPIES.
Vote Date: 3/23/2026
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/13/2026
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy and other advanced gene therapies are for previously untreatable cancers and other diseases such as Sickle Cell Anemia, Type 1 diabetes, Lupus, and more. SB-451 creates a 28-member advisory council within the Department of Public Health (DPH) to advise and make recommendations to DPH and other state agencies. The council will address (1) safe, equitable, and financially sustainable ways to deliver these therapies; (2) referral and management protocols; and (3) advanced training for clinical providers.

The council may apply for and accept financing to fulfill its mission, as well as, enter contracts to distribute and use the funds. The council is required to report its findings and recommendations annually to the Insurance and Public Health Committees, with the first report due no later than one year after the date of the council's first meeting.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Jodie Gillon, President & CEO, BioCT:

Ms. Gillon describes SB 451 as "a thoughtful, forward-looking step toward improving access, safety, and health equity" for patients with previously untreatable cancers. CAR-T and other gene therapies "require significant coordination, specialized clinical training, and rigorous safety protocols," making the complexity and cost of providing such treatments increasingly

pressing. A statewide advisory council will serve as an important bridge between the legislature and important statewide stakeholders so that Connecticut remains a leader in advanced therapies. As innovative treatments progress, equitable access, workforce readiness, and safety oversight are urgent public health priorities.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Rebecca Hyland **Date: March 25, 2026**