



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5562

LCO No. 3084



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO HUMAN SERVICES STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 19a-697 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2026*):

4 (b) A managed residential community shall post in a prominent place
5 in the managed residential community the resident's bill of rights,
6 including those rights set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The
7 posting of the resident's bill of rights shall include contact information
8 for (1) the Department of Public Health and the Office of the State Long-
9 Term Care Ombudsman, including the names, addresses and telephone
10 numbers of persons within such agencies who handle questions,
11 comments or complaints concerning managed residential community,
12 and (2) the Department of Social Services to report the suspected abuse,
13 neglect, exploitation or abandonment of an elderly person, or that an
14 elderly person may be in need of protective services.

15 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 17b-105a of the general statutes is

16 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
17 *passage*):

18 (d) Not later than December 31, 2024, the Commissioner of Social
19 Services shall enter into a contract with an outside vendor to update the
20 system utilized by the Department of Social Services to administer the
21 supplemental nutrition assistance program for the purpose of enabling
22 the department to stagger the distribution of program benefits so that
23 benefits are distributed, in accordance with federal law, to cohorts of
24 program beneficiaries designated by the commissioner at multiple
25 intervals during each month. Not later than March 1, 2026, the
26 commissioner shall commence staggering the distribution of such
27 benefits to such cohorts of beneficiaries each month, in accordance with
28 federal law. Not later than April 1, 2026, [and annually thereafter,] the
29 commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
30 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
31 cognizance of matters relating to human services regarding the
32 staggering of distribution benefits pursuant to this subsection.

33 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 17a-247b of the 2026 supplement to
34 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
35 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

36 (c) The department shall make information in the registry available
37 only to: (1) Authorized agencies, for the purpose of protective service
38 determinations; (2) employers who employ employees to provide
39 services to an individual who receives services or funding from the
40 department or the Medicaid waiver program for autism spectrum
41 disorder administered by the Department of Social Services, as
42 described in section 17a-215c; (3) the Departments of Children and
43 Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Social Services and
44 Administrative Services and the Office of Labor Relations, for the
45 purpose of determining whether an applicant for employment with the
46 Departments of Children and Families, Developmental Services, Mental
47 Health and Addiction Services and Social Services appears on the

48 registry; (4) the Office of the Probate Court Administrator, for the
49 purpose of determining whether a person proposed for appointment as
50 a guardian pursuant to part V of chapter 802h appears on the registry;
51 or (5) charitable organizations that recruit volunteers to support
52 programs for persons with intellectual disability or autism spectrum
53 disorder, upon application to and approval by the commissioner, for
54 purposes of conducting background checks on such volunteers.

55 Sec. 4. Section 46a-175 of the general statutes is repealed and the
56 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

57 (a) There is established a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and
58 Queer Justice and Opportunity Network to make recommendations to
59 the state legislative, executive and judicial branches of government
60 concerning the delivery of access and opportunity services to lesbian,
61 gay, bisexual, transgender and queer persons in the state.

62 (b) The network shall work to build a more just, safer and healthier
63 environment for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer persons
64 by (1) conducting a needs analysis, within available appropriations, (2)
65 collecting additional data on the access and opportunity needs of such
66 persons as necessary, (3) informing state policy through reports
67 submitted at least biennially, in accordance with the provisions of
68 section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
69 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, public health,
70 human services, appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, other
71 legislative committees as necessary, the Governor and the Chief Court
72 Administrator, and (4) building organizational member capacity,
73 leadership and advocacy across the geographic and social spectrum of
74 the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community.

75 (c) The network membership shall reflect the diversity of the lesbian,
76 gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community and include, but need
77 not be limited to, the following members from the state's five
78 congressional districts, or their designees, appointed jointly by the

79 speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore
80 of the Senate:

81 (1) [The president of Connecticut Latinas/os Achieving Rights and
82 Opportunities (CLARO)] A health care provider, licensed pursuant to
83 chapter 370 or 378, serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and
84 queer community;

85 (2) [The executive director of the Safe Harbor Project] A mental health
86 provider, licensed pursuant to chapter 370 or 383, serving the lesbian,
87 gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community;

88 (3) [The executive director of the New Haven Pride Center] A
89 representative of an organization that works to improve the health of
90 people living with HIV/AIDS;

91 (4) [The executive director of the Triangle Community Center in
92 Norwalk] An attorney representative of an organization that works to
93 eliminate LGBTQ+ discrimination, who is licensed pursuant to chapter
94 876;

95 (5) [The executive director of Advancing CT Together] A
96 representative of an organization that works with lesbian, gay, bisexual,
97 transgender and queer youth;

98 (6) [The executive director of the Connecticut chapter of the Gay,
99 Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)] A representative of an
100 organization that works with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and
101 queer elderly persons;

102 (7) [The executive director of the Rainbow Center at The University
103 of Connecticut] A veteran who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or
104 queer;

105 (8) [The executive director of the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health
106 Collective] A representative from a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender
107 and queer corporate employee affinity group;

108 (9) [The executive director of the Connecticut Transadvocacy
109 Coalition] An educator who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or
110 queer;

111 (10) [The president of OutCT in New London] A representative of an
112 organization that works with a resettlement community providing
113 support for refugees and other immigrants;

114 (11) [The executive director of the Queer Unity Empowerment
115 Support Team] An executive director of a lesbian, gay, bisexual,
116 transgender or queer community center;

117 (12) [The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
118 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity] A representative of an organization
119 that works with the disability community;

120 (13) [A lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer physician,
121 licensed pursuant to chapter 370, appointed by the speaker of the House
122 of Representatives] A representative of an affirming interfaith
123 organization that works to welcome and include diverse communities,
124 including, but not limited to, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and
125 queer persons;

126 (14) [A member of the LGBT Aging Advocacy coalition, appointed by
127 the Governor] A parent or caregiver of a lesbian, gay, bisexual,
128 transgender or queer child;

129 (15) [The president of Connecticut Community Care;] The executive
130 director of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and
131 Opportunity; and

132 (16) Not more than nine at-large representatives with an interest in
133 furthering state policy specific to the interests and welfare of lesbian,
134 gay, bisexual, transgender and queer persons.

135 [(16) The executive director of A Place to Nourish Your Health;

- 136 (17) The executive director of Kamora's Cultural Corner;
- 137 (18) A lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer provider of mental
138 health services, licensed pursuant to chapter 370 or 383;
- 139 (19) The executive director of Apex Community Care; and
- 140 (20) The executive director of Queer Youth Program of Connecticut.]

141 (d) Members shall serve at the will of the speaker of the House of
142 Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate, who may
143 each appoint additional members pursuant to subdivision (16) of
144 subsection (c) of this section and set term limits for each member.
145 Appointments to the network shall be made not later than [sixty days
146 after July 1, 2019] September 1, 2026. Members shall choose
147 chairpersons. Any vacancy shall be filled by the speaker of the House of
148 Representatives, acting in consultation with the president pro tempore
149 of the Senate.

150 (e) The administrative staff of the Commission on Women, Children,
151 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall, within available appropriations,
152 provide administrative support to the network.

153 (f) Members shall adopt bylaws for the conduct of the network's
154 business and shall annually elect from among the members officers as
155 may be designated in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for (1)
156 alternate representatives of the network to attend and vote at any
157 meeting in place of absent representatives, (2) an executive committee
158 of the network and for additional committees, including, but not limited
159 to, nonvoting advisory committees, (3) procedures to address
160 nonattendance by members, including, but not limited to, standards for
161 participation, notice requirements and potential consequences for
162 repeated or unexcused absences, and (4) procedures for adopting a
163 governance model.

164 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 17b-338 of the general statutes is

165 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
166 *passage*):

167 (a) There is established a Long-Term Care Advisory Council which
168 shall consist of the following: (1) The executive director of the
169 Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or
170 the executive director's designee; (2) the State Nursing Home
171 Ombudsman, or the ombudsman's designee; (3) the president of the
172 Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils, or the president's designee;
173 (4) the executive director of the Legal Assistance Resource Center of
174 Connecticut, or the executive director's designee; (5) the state president
175 of AARP, or the president's designee; (6) one representative of a
176 bargaining unit for health care employees, appointed by the president
177 of the bargaining unit; (7) the president of LeadingAge Connecticut [,
178 Inc.] & Rhode Island, Inc., or the president's designee; (8) the president
179 of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, or the
180 president's designee; (9) the president of the Connecticut Association of
181 Residential Care Homes, or the president's designee; (10) the president
182 of the Connecticut Hospital Association or the president's designee; (11)
183 the executive director of the Connecticut Assisted Living Association or
184 the executive director's designee; (12) the executive director of the
185 Connecticut Association for Homecare or the executive director's
186 designee; (13) the president of Connecticut Community Care, Inc. or the
187 president's designee; (14) one member of the Connecticut Association of
188 Area Agencies on Aging appointed by the agency; (15) the president of
189 the Connecticut chapter of the Connecticut Alzheimer's Association;
190 (16) one member of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers
191 appointed by the association; (17) the president of the Connecticut
192 Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators, or the
193 president's designee; (18) the president of the Connecticut Council for
194 Persons with Disabilities, or the president's designee; (19) the president
195 of the Connecticut Association of Community Action Agencies, or the
196 president's designee; (20) a personal care attendant appointed by the
197 speaker of the House of Representatives; (21) a person who, in a home

198 setting, cares for a person with a disability and is appointed by the
199 president pro tempore of the Senate; (22) three persons with a disability
200 appointed one each by the majority leader of the House of
201 Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate and the minority
202 leader of the House of Representatives; (23) a legislator who is a member
203 of the Long-Term Care Planning Committee; (24) one member who is a
204 nonunion home health aide appointed by the minority leader of the
205 Senate; and (25) the executive director of the nonprofit entity designated
206 by the Governor in accordance with section 46a-10b to serve as the
207 Connecticut protection and advocacy system or the executive director's
208 designee.

209 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 19a-127l of the general statutes is
210 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
211 *passage*):

212 (d) The advisory committee shall consist of (1) four members who
213 represent and shall be appointed by the Connecticut Hospital
214 Association, including three members who represent three separate
215 hospitals that are not affiliated of which one such hospital is an
216 academic medical center; (2) one member who represents and shall be
217 appointed by the Connecticut Nursing Association; (3) two members
218 who represent and shall be appointed by the Connecticut Medical
219 Society, including one member who is an active medical care provider;
220 (4) two members who represent and shall be appointed by the
221 Connecticut Business and Industry Association, including one member
222 who represents a large business and one member who represents a
223 small business; (5) one member who represents and shall be appointed
224 by the Home Health Care Association; (6) one member who represents
225 and shall be appointed by the Connecticut Association of Health Care
226 Facilities; (7) one member who represents and shall be appointed by
227 LeadingAge Connecticut [, Inc.] & Rhode Island, Inc.; (8) two members
228 who represent and shall be appointed by the AFL-CIO; (9) one member
229 who represents consumers of health care services and who shall be
230 appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health; (10) one member who

231 represents a school of public health and who shall be appointed by the
232 Commissioner of Public Health; (11) the Commissioner of Public Health
233 or said commissioner's designee; (12) the Commissioner of Social
234 Services or said commissioner's designee; (13) the Secretary of the Office
235 of Policy and Management or said secretary's designee; (14) two
236 members who represent licensed health plans and shall be appointed by
237 the Connecticut Association of Health Care Plans; (15) one member who
238 represents and shall be appointed by the federally designated state peer
239 review organization; and (16) one member who represents and shall be
240 appointed by the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association. The
241 chairperson of the advisory committee shall be the Commissioner of
242 Public Health or said commissioner's designee. The chairperson of the
243 committee, with a vote of the majority of the members present, may
244 appoint ex-officio nonvoting members in specialties not represented
245 among voting members. Vacancies shall be filled by the person who
246 makes the appointment under this subsection.

247 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 19a-515 of the general statutes is
248 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
249 *passage*):

250 (b) Each licensee shall complete a minimum of forty hours of
251 continuing education every two years, including, but not limited to,
252 training in (1) Alzheimer's disease and dementia symptoms and care,
253 and (2) infection prevention and control. Such two-year period shall
254 commence on the first date of renewal of the licensee's license after
255 January 1, 2004. The continuing education shall be in areas related to the
256 licensee's practice. Qualifying continuing education activities are
257 courses offered or approved by the Connecticut Association of
258 Healthcare Facilities, LeadingAge Connecticut [, Inc.] & Rhode Island,
259 Inc., the Connecticut Assisted Living Association, the Connecticut
260 Alliance for Subacute Care, Inc., the Connecticut Chapter of the
261 American College of Health Care Administrators, the Association For
262 Long Term Care Financial Managers, the Alzheimer's Association or
263 any accredited college or university, or programs presented or

264 approved by the National Continuing Education Review Service of the
 265 National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care
 266 Administrators, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control
 267 and Epidemiology or by federal or state departments or agencies.

268 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 309 of public act 23-204 is repealed
 269 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*)

270 (b) The Department of Social Services or its agent shall consult with
 271 health care providers with expertise regarding gender-affirming care in
 272 developing and updating coverage policy for gender-affirming care in
 273 the HUSKY Health program. [The Commissioner of Social Services shall
 274 provide a report not less than annually regarding coverage of gender-
 275 affirming care in the HUSKY Health program to the Council on Medical
 276 Assistance Program Oversight established pursuant to section 17b-28 of
 277 the general statutes for review and comment.]

278 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The provisions of 42 CFR 483.45 and 42
 279 CFR 483.10 adopted as of January 1, 2026, with respect to the provision
 280 of anti-psychotic pharmaceuticals to a resident of a nursing home, as
 281 defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, and informed consent
 282 to treatment shall apply to the provisions of the general statutes in the
 283 same manner and with the same force and effect as if the language of
 284 the federal regulations had been incorporated in full into the general
 285 statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	19a-697(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	17b-105a(d)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	17a-247b(c)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	46a-175
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	17b-338(a)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	19a-1271(d)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	19a-515(b)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	PA 23-204, Sec. 309(b)

Sec. 9	July 1, 2026	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To make technical and other changes to statutes concerning human services.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]