



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 451

LCO No. 2735



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHIMERIC ANTIGEN RECEPTOR T-CELL THERAPY AND OTHER GENE THERAPIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There is established an
2 advisory council on chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy and other
3 gene therapies. The council shall advise and make recommendations to
4 the Department of Public Health and other state agencies, as
5 appropriate, regarding (1) the availability of chimeric antigen receptor
6 T-cell therapy and other gene therapies in the state for the treatment of
7 cancer, (2) safe, equitable and financially sustainable delivery of such
8 therapies, (3) advanced training for clinical providers of such therapies,
9 (4) long-term follow-up and vector safety for patients receiving such
10 therapies, (5) the development of referral and management protocols for
11 such therapies, (6) education for clinicians, patients and patient's
12 relatives and caregivers regarding such therapies and such protocols, (7)
13 advising patients and their relatives and caregivers regarding the cost
14 and availability of insurance coverage for such therapies, (8)
15 opportunities for coordinating with research collaborations,

16 government agencies, including, but not limited to, the Centers for
17 Medicare and Medicaid Services, accrediting bodies and national
18 registries regarding such therapies, (9) the development of centers of
19 excellence in the state for the delivery of such therapies, including, but
20 not limited to, requiring accreditation of such centers, (10) the
21 development of a state-wide referral network to ensure all eligible
22 patients are matched with a center of excellence in the state, (11) the
23 development of safety protocols to address complications experienced
24 by patients receiving such therapies and other safety concerns, (12)
25 methods of providing psychosocial support to patients receiving such
26 therapies and their relatives and caregivers, and (13) methods of
27 tracking patient outcomes with a focus on equity as it relates to
28 diagnosis, race, ethnicity, geography and income.

29 (b) The council may perform the following functions:

30 (1) Consult with experts on chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy
31 and other gene therapies for the treatment of cancer to develop policy
32 recommendations for improving patient access to such therapies in the
33 state;

34 (2) Hold public hearings and otherwise make inquiries of and solicit
35 comments from the general public to assist with a study or survey of
36 persons living with cancer who have received such therapies, such
37 persons' caregivers and health care providers and patient advocates;
38 and

39 (3) Research and make recommendations to the Department of Public
40 Health and other state agencies.

41 (c) The council shall consist of the following members:

42 (1) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
43 designee;

44 (2) The Insurance Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee,

45 who may be the representative of a health carrier;

46 (3) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
47 designee;

48 (4) The health information technology officer, designated in
49 accordance with section 19a-754a of the general statutes, or the officer's
50 designee;

51 (5) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
52 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
53 relating to public health, or their designees;

54 (6) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
55 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
56 relating to human services, or their designees;

57 (7) Four appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing
58 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
59 relating to public health, one of whom shall be a hematologist or
60 oncologist providing services to adults, one of whom shall be a specialist
61 in emerging cellular and genetic therapy, one of whom shall be an
62 expert in pharmacology and one of whom shall be an advocate for
63 patients with a condition that is treated by gene therapy;

64 (8) Four appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing
65 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
66 relating to public health, one of whom shall be a patient who has
67 received chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy, one of whom shall be
68 a representative of an association of hospitals in the state, one of whom
69 shall be a pediatric hematologist or oncologist and one of whom shall be
70 a community health equity advocate;

71 (9) Four appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint
72 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
73 matters relating to public health, one of whom shall be a representative

74 of an internationally recognized accreditation body for institutions
75 providing cellular therapies, one of whom shall be a representative of
76 an association of health carriers in the state, one of whom shall be the
77 director of a cellular therapy program in the state and one of whom shall
78 be a representative of the life sciences or biotechnology industry; and

79 (10) Four appointed by the House ranking member of the joint
80 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
81 matters relating to public health, one of whom shall be a representative,
82 family member or caregiver of a person living with cancer who has
83 received gene therapy, one of whom shall be an advocate for cancer
84 patients in the state, one of whom shall be a social worker or patient
85 navigator and one of whom shall be a director of a transplant and
86 cellular therapy program in the state.

87 (d) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later than
88 October 31, 2026. Except for members of the council who represent state
89 agencies, members shall serve for a term of three years and any vacancy
90 shall be filled by the appointing authority. The members shall receive
91 no compensation for their services but may be reimbursed for any
92 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The
93 Commissioner of Public Health shall select an acting chairperson of the
94 council from its members for the purpose of organizing the first council
95 meeting. Such chairperson shall schedule and convene the first meeting,
96 which shall be held not later than November 30, 2026. The members of
97 the council shall appoint, by majority vote, a chairperson and vice-
98 chairperson during the first meeting of the council. Thereafter, the
99 council shall meet not less than quarterly in person or on a remote
100 platform, as determined by the chairperson.

101 (e) The council shall be within the Department of Public Health for
102 administrative purposes only.

103 (f) Not later than one year after the date of its first meeting, and
104 annually thereafter, the council shall report, in accordance with the

105 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
106 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
107 relating to public health and insurance regarding its findings and
108 recommendations, including, but not limited to, (1) the council's
109 activities, research findings and any recommendations for proposed
110 legislative changes, and (2) any potential sources of funding for the
111 council's activities, including, but not limited to, grants, donations,
112 sponsorships or in-kind donations.

113 (g) The council may (1) apply for and accept grants, gifts, bequests,
114 sponsorships and in-kind donations of funds from federal and interstate
115 agencies, private firms, individuals and foundations for the purpose of
116 carrying out its responsibilities, and (2) enter into any contracts or
117 agreements, in accordance with any established procedures, as may be
118 necessary for the distribution or use of any received funds, services or
119 property in accordance with any requirements to fulfill any conditions
120 of a grant, gift, bequest, sponsorship or in-kind donation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish an advisory council on access to chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy and other gene therapies for the treatment of cancer.

[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.]