



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 494***

LCO No. 2853



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BIPARTISAN  
PRESCRIPTION DRUG TASK FORCE.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 28-33 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (a) There is established a task force to study emergency preparedness  
5 and mitigation strategies for prescription drug shortages. The task force  
6 shall identify prescription drugs at risk of shortage in this state and  
7 make recommendations pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.

8 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

9 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
10 one of whom has expertise in prescription drug supply chains and one  
11 of whom has expertise in federal law concerning prescription drug  
12 shortages;

13 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of

14 whom represents hospitals and one of whom represents health care  
15 providers who treat patients with rare diseases;

16 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
17 Representatives, who represents one of the two federally recognized  
18 Indian tribes in the state;

19 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who  
20 represents one of the two federally recognized Indian tribes in the state;

21 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
22 Representatives, who represents health insurance companies;

23 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a  
24 representative of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange;

25 (7) The Commissioner of Health Strategy, or the commissioner's  
26 designee;

27 (8) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's  
28 designee;

29 (9) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's  
30 designee;

31 (10) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's  
32 designee;

33 (11) The chief executive officer of The University of Connecticut  
34 Health Center, or the chief executive officer's designee;

35 (12) The Insurance Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

36 (13) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,  
37 or the commissioner's designee; [and]

38 (14) The House chairperson and Senate chairperson of the joint  
39 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of

40 matters relating to human services, who shall serve as chairpersons of  
41 the task force; and

42 ~~[(14)]~~ (15) Any other members as deemed necessary by the  
43 chairpersons of the task force.

44 (c) Task force members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (6),  
45 inclusive, and (15) of subsection (b) of this section shall serve two-year  
46 terms. Subsequent such appointments shall be made on a staggered  
47 basis, with members subsequently appointed pursuant to subdivisions  
48 (1) to (3), inclusive, and (15) of subsection (b) of this section appointed  
49 to two-year terms and members subsequently appointed pursuant to  
50 subdivisions (4) to (6), inclusive, of said subsection appointed to three-  
51 year terms. Terms for members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (7)  
52 to (14), inclusive, of said subsection shall be coterminous with their  
53 terms in office. Any member of the task force appointed under  
54 subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), ~~[or] (6) or (15)~~ of subsection (b) of this  
55 section may be a member of the General Assembly.

56 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
57 than ~~[thirty days after July 8, 2025]~~ August 1, 2026. Any vacancy shall  
58 be filled by the appointing authority.

59 (e) The ~~[speaker of the House of Representatives and the president~~  
60 ~~pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force~~  
61 ~~from among the members of the task force. Such]~~ chairpersons of the  
62 task force shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall  
63 be held not later than [sixty days after July 8, 2025] September 1, 2026.

64 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
65 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to ~~[general~~  
66 ~~law]~~ human services shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

67 (g) Not later than January 1, ~~[2026]~~ 2027, and annually thereafter, the  
68 task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to  
69 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having

70 cognizance of matters relating to general law, human services, insurance  
71 and real estate and public health, in accordance with the provisions of  
72 section 11-4a. [, including, but not] The report shall include, but need  
73 not be limited to, identification of prescription drugs the task force  
74 determines are at risk of shortage and strategies that would mitigate  
75 these shortages, including methods to increase in-state production of  
76 such drugs deemed both at risk of shortage and critically necessary for  
77 the provision of health care within the state.

78 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,  
79 "Strategic Supply Chain Initiative" means a program administered by  
80 the Department of Economic and Community Development to help  
81 state-based companies to increase their production capacity to win new  
82 business and attract out-of-state and international supply chain  
83 operations.

84 (b) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development  
85 shall expand the Strategic Supply Chain Initiative to include efforts to  
86 prevent or mitigate prescription drug shortages, including, but not  
87 limited to, incorporating recommendations to prevent or mitigate  
88 prescription drug shortages by the task force established pursuant to  
89 section 28-33 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

90 Sec. 3. Section 17b-491c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
91 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

92 (a) On and after February 1, 2008, any pharmaceutical manufacturer  
93 of a prescription drug covered by the Department of Social Services  
94 under a state medical assistance program administered by the  
95 department that is a federally qualified state pharmacy assistance  
96 program shall provide rebates to the department for prescription drugs  
97 paid for by the department under such program in unit rebate amounts  
98 equal to the unit rebate amounts paid under the Medicaid program.

99 (b) On and after February 1, 2008, any pharmaceutical manufacturer  
100 of a prescription drug covered by the department under a state medical

101 assistance program that is not a federally qualified state pharmacy  
102 assistance program shall provide rebates to the department. The unit  
103 rebate amount shall be calculated as follows: (1) For noninnovator  
104 multiple source drugs, the average manufacturer's price multiplied by  
105 eleven per cent, and (2) for single source or innovator drugs, the greater  
106 of the average manufacturer's price multiplied by fifteen and one-tenth  
107 per cent or the average manufacturer's price minus best price. In the  
108 event the calculated rebate would establish a new Medicaid best price,  
109 the unit rebate amount will be capped at the average manufacturer's  
110 price minus best price.

111 (c) The department may enter into contracts for supplemental rebates  
112 for drugs that are on a preferred drug list or formulary established by  
113 the department. On and after July 1, 2026, the department shall develop  
114 and implement a plan to increase the number of such supplemental  
115 rebates by not less than twenty per cent.

116 (d) Pharmaceutical manufacturers shall submit written confirmation  
117 of participation on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Social  
118 Services, that states the terms of participation, including, but not limited  
119 to, the process by which a manufacturer may discontinue participation.  
120 The department shall provide advance notice to participating  
121 manufacturers if a new pharmacy assistance program is established and  
122 shall provide the manufacturers with the opportunity to discontinue  
123 participation. The department shall promptly notify participating  
124 manufacturers if a state pharmacy assistance program becomes  
125 disqualified. If a program becomes disqualified and a manufacturer has  
126 paid rebates at the rate for a qualified program, the department shall  
127 reimburse the manufacturer the amount overpaid as a result of  
128 disqualification.

129 (e) A manufacturer shall not be required to provide a rebate for a  
130 prescription drug that is new to the marketplace until the quarter in  
131 which the manufacturer has established a Medicaid best price for the  
132 product.

133 (f) No payment shall be made by the department for the prescription  
134 drugs of a manufacturer that does not provide rebates to the department  
135 pursuant to this section unless a specific drug is determined by the  
136 department to be medically necessary for an individual client.

137 (g) Not later than January fifteenth annually, the Commissioner of  
138 Social Services shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of  
139 section 11-4a, with the joint standing committee of the General  
140 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services on  
141 (1) the number of prescription rebates received the previous calendar  
142 year, (2) any increase or decrease in such rebates from the previous  
143 calendar year, (3) the number of supplemental rebates negotiated by the  
144 commissioner pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and (4) any  
145 increase or decrease in such rebates from the previous calendar year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	28-33
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17b-491c

**Statement of Purpose:**

To set term limits and administrative support for a prescription drug task force, require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to expand the Strategic Supply Chain Initiative to include efforts to prevent or mitigate prescription drug shortages and require the Commissioner of Social Services to negotiate more supplemental prescription drug rebates.

*[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.]*