
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 227

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY OVER-THE-COUNTER DIET PILLS AND SUPPLEMENTS AND PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF PRESCRIBERS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE AND GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a task force to study the sale of dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building and over-the-counter diet pills (§ 1).

It also expands current law that prohibits the Department of Consumer Protection and the Commission on Pharmacy from denying a pharmacy-related license, permit, or registration, or imposing discipline on the holder of such a pharmacy-related credential, because of a pending or imposed disciplinary action or unresolved complaint in another U.S. state or jurisdiction related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care that is allowed in Connecticut. Specifically, it applies these prohibitions to (1) other types of adverse actions taken in another jurisdiction for these reasons and (2) any of these actions taken by a federal entity (§ 2).

Additionally, to the extent permitted by federal law, the bill requires a prescription order for a drug related to reproductive health or gender-affirming health care, at the prescriber's request, to include the prescribing and dispensing practice's or facility's name and address instead of the prescriber's name and signature. This same provision applies to the dispensed label for one of these drugs unless it is a controlled substance (§§ 3-5).

By law, "reproductive health care services" include medical, surgical, counseling, and referral services relating to the human reproductive system. "Gender-affirming health care services" generally are supplies,

care and services of a medical, behavioral health, mental health, surgical, psychiatric, therapeutic, diagnostic, preventative, rehabilitative, or supportive nature, including medication for treating gender dysphoria and gender incongruence. It does not include conversion therapy (CGS § 52-571m).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provisions on the task force take effect upon passage.

§ 1 — TASK FORCE

The bill establishes an 11-person task force to study the sale of dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building and over-the-counter diet pills. The study must address:

1. dietary supplements labeled, marketed, or represented as achieving weight loss or muscle building, but not (a) protein powders or drinks or (b) foods marketed as having protein, unless the powder, food, or drink has another ingredient that on its own is a dietary supplement for weight loss or muscle building, and
2. over-the-counter diet pills that are (a) drugs labeled, marketed, or represented as achieving weight loss or muscle building and (b) available over the counter with or without a prescription under federal law.

The bill requires the task force to consist of:

1. the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's executive director, who serves as task force chairperson;
2. the commissioners of consumer protection and public health, or their designees;
3. two members appointed by the House speaker, one with expertise in the safety of applicable dietary supplements and one with expertise in the safety of applicable over-the-counter pills;

4. two members appointed by the Senate president pro tempore;
and
5. one each appointed by the House and Senate majority and
minority leaders.

The bill allows appointed members to be legislators, requires appointments to be made within 30 days after the bill's passage, and directs the appointing authorities to fill vacancies.

The chairperson must schedule and hold the first meeting within 60 days after the bill's passage, and the General Law Committee administrative staff serves as the task force's administrative staff.

The bill requires the task force to report to the General Law Committee by January 1, 2027. The report must include research on the safety of these items by user age, whether their sale to minors should be restricted, and other states' best practices for regulating them.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 2 (03/16/2026)