



**Senate Bill No. 1484**

**Public Act No. 07-185**

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE HEALTHFIRST CONNECTICUT AND HEALTHY KIDS INITIATIVES.**

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Sec. 30. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a HealthFirst Connecticut Authority composed of the following members: Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a health care provider and one of whom represents businesses with fifty or more employees; two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom has experience in community-based health care and one of whom represents businesses with fewer than fifty employees; one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives who represents consumers; one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who represents the interests of labor; one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who represents health insurance companies; one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who represents hospitals; and two appointed by the Governor, one of whom advocates for health care quality or patient safety and one with experience in information technology. The Commissioners of Public Health and Social Services or their designees and the Comptroller or Comptroller's designee shall be ex-officio, nonvoting members.

(b) All appointments to the HealthFirst Connecticut Authority shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section and any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority not later than thirty days after the vacancy. If an appointing authority fails to make an appointment within any such thirty-day period, the chairpersons of the HealthFirst Connecticut Authority shall make such appointment.

(c) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall each select a chairperson of the HealthFirst Connecticut

Authority from among the members of the authority. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the HealthFirst Connecticut Authority, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(d) All members appointed to the authority shall be familiar with the criteria of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies Principals for Healthcare Reform and shall be committed to making recommendations about health care reform for the state of Connecticut that are consistent with said criteria.

(e) The HealthFirst Connecticut Authority shall:

(1) Examine and evaluate policy alternatives for providing quality, affordable and sustainable health care for all individuals residing in this state, including, but not limited to, a state-wide single payer health care system and employer-sponsored health plans.

(2) Make recommendations for mechanisms to contain the cost and improve the quality of health care in this state, including, but not limited to: Health information technology; disease management and other initiatives to coordinate and improve the quality of care for people with chronic diseases; monitoring and reporting about the costs, quality and utilization of care, including assessment of consumer and provider satisfaction; and measures to encourage or require the provision of health care coverage to certain groups through participation in an insurance pool.

(3) Make recommendations regarding the financing of quality, affordable health care coverage for individuals residing in this state, including the maximization of federal funds to provide subsidies for health care, contributions from employers, employees and individuals and methods for financing the state's share of the cost of such coverage.

(4) Not later than December 1, 2008, report on its findings and recommendations with respect to such policy alternatives to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, social services and insurance, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall include recommended strategies for increasing access to health care for all of Connecticut's residents.

(f) The HealthFirst Connecticut Authority may apply for grants or financial assistance from any person, group of persons or corporation or from any agency of the state or of the United States.