

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 16-21

HB5379

Senate	1399-1400, 1699-1701	5
Aging	275-276, 339	3
House Transcripts have not been received. They are available on CGA website, but are not the Official copy. Contact House Clerk for assistance (860) 240-0400		8

Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives Proceedings

**Connecticut State Library
Compiled 2017**

S - 695

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2016**

**VOL. 59
PART 5
1368 - 1703**

kbk
SENATE

32
April 28, 2016

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? Senate "A" is adopted. Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you. With that, the amendment becomes part of the bill.

Again, this is a consumer-friendly bill, and I would urge my colleagues for their support. And if there is no objection, I would happy to be -- put it on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 12, Calendar 386, H.B. No. 5379, AN ACT CONCERNING REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS FROM THE CHOICES HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STATUTE.

THE CHAIR:

Sorry, Senator Flexer, good afternoon, ma'am.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Good afternoon, Madam President. Madam President, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the House.

kbk
SENATE

33
April 28, 2016

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark, ma'am?

THE CHAIR:

Yes, Madam President. Madam President, the legislation before us simply updates our state statutes concerning the Choices program.

Previously, there were a number of Medicare-managed care plans. Those plans no longer exist and therefore several sections of the Choices' statutes are no longer necessary.

I urge the Chamber to support this measure. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill? If not, Senator Flexer.

SENATOR FLEXER (29TH):

Madam President, if there's no objection, I move that we place this item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir -- ma'am. Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 32, Calendar 69, substitute for S.B. No. 186, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

kbk
SENATE

332
April 28, 2016

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And on Calendar Page 9, Calendar 359, S.B. 455; I'd like to place that item on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. And if the Clerk can now call the items on the Consent Calendar, followed by a vote of our Consent Calendar tonight.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, when you can, please call the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

On Page 1, Calendar 83, S.B. No. 183; Page 2, Calendar 132, S.B. No. 205; on Page 4, Calendar 237, S.B. No. 298; Page 5, Calendar 285, S.B. No. 317; on Page 8, Calendar 346, S.B. No. 338; Page 9, Calendar 372, S.B. No. 346; also on Page 9, Calendar 359, S.B. No. 455; on Page 10, Calendar 374, H.B. No. 5327; Page 12, Calendar 386, H.B. No. 5379; on Page 14, Calendar 405, S.B. No. 365; Page 17, Calendar 434, S.B. No. 401; Page 17, Calendar 438, S.B. No. 267; Page 32, Calendar 69, S.B. No. 186; and on Page 33, Calendar 85, S.B. No. 187; also on Page 33, Calendar 129, S.B. No. 202; Page 34, Calendar 138, S.B. No. 137; also on Page 34, Calendar 139, S.B. No. 140; on Page 35, Calendar

kbk
SENATE

333
April 28, 2016

186, S.B. No. 262; Page 36, Calendar 203, S.B. No. 240; Page 36, Calendar 222, S.B. No. 301; Page 36, Calendar 226, S.B. No. 179; on Page 37, Calendar 249, S.B. No. 122; Page 38, Calendar 257, S.B. No. 139; on Page 40, Calendar 333, S.B. No. 289; and on Page 41, Calendar 349, S.B. No. 300.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on Consent Calendar 1. The machine is open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar for today. Immediate roll call in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Gomes; Consent Calendar. Senator Hartley; thank you.

All members have voted. All members have voted. The machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally, please?

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar

Total Number of Voting	36
Those Voting Yea	36
Those Voting Nay	0
Absent and Not Voting	0

kbk
SENATE

334
April 28, 2016

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. (Gavel)

Are there any points of personal privilege? Senator Leone. Senator Leone?

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Yes. Yes, Madam President, just for a purpose of an announcement?

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

For just -- for the General Law Committee, we'll have a meeting for a referral 15 minutes prior to the start of the first session tomorrow. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you; so noted. Senator Winfield.

SENATOR WINFIELD (10TH):

Yes, thank you, Madam President. The Housing Committee will be meeting at 10:30 outside the House Chamber.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**AGING
1-342**

**2016
INDEX**

11
Wcj/mlc

Aging Committee

March 3, 2016
10:00 A.M.

on their end and they've already got responses to that, and so collaborating with them would also be helpful I think.

REP. SERRA (33RD): Once those recommendations are made, make sure that the committee's aware of what the changes are.

MS. SHAFFER: Sure. I'll do that

REP. SERRA (33RD): Any other questions from the members of the committee? Thank you Nancy.

MS. SHAFFER: Thank you.

REP. SERRA (33RD): Commissioner Ritter are you all set? Good morning Commissioner.

MS RITTER: Good morning Representative Serra, Senator Flexer, Representative Bolinsky, distinguished members of the aging committee. I appreciate the opportunity to be here to testify today and I want to thank you all for going ahead and raising House Bill 5379, an Act Concerning the Removal of Obsolete Provisions from the Choices Health Insurance Assistance Programs statutes. The bill proposes to amend the current choices statute, which I'll remind you is Connecticut's program for health insurance assistance, outreach, information and referral, counseling and eligibility screening by eliminating sections that have become obsolete, and are no longer applicable to the choices program. These sections were put in place when there were a great number of Medicare managed care plans, most of which no longer exist and they have been replaced with the Medicare Advantage plan. The Federal Government currently provides Federal

oversight over those plans. Current statutes state that the commissioner of insurance may require each Medicare organization to annually file reports with beneficiary plan data and other specified information. A Medicare organization can be fined for failure to file these annual reports however the Department of Insurance does not require these organizations to file the reports, and consequently fines are imposed and no reports regarding the lack of filings by these Medicare organizations are provided to the General Assembly by the health care advocates. For these reasons we propose elimination of the designated statutes. I would like to add that previous to submission of this bill, it has been seen by both the commissioner of the Department of Insurance, as well as the health care advocate and they concur. Thank you for your time.

REP. SERRA (33RD): Thank you commissioner. Any questions from the members of the committee? Thank you commissioner.

MS. RITTER: You're welcome, and thank you for your forbearance with the schedule.

REP. SERRA (33RD): Next is John Sayour from --. Good morning, would you please state your name for the record.

MR. SAYOUR: Good morning, chairman and the members of the Committee. My name is John A Sayour. I'm representing here today NAIFA, that's the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. I'm here to discuss SB 265, an Act Concerning the Protection of Consumers who Receive Investment Advice from Financial Advisors. I'm a thirty year

HB5591



55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105
Telephone: (860) 424-5274
Toll Free: 1-866-218-6631
Website: www.ct.gov/aging
Email: aging.sda@ct.gov

Written Testimony

Aging Committee

March 3, 2016

Elizabeth B. Ritter, State Department on Aging

Senator Flexer, Representative Serra, Senator Kelly, Representative Bolinsky and distinguished members of the Aging Committee. My name is Betsy Ritter. I am the Commissioner of the State Department on Aging. I am here today to provide testimony in support of HB 5379: AN ACT CONCERNING REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS FROM THE CHOICES HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STATUTE.

This bill proposes to amend the current CHOICES statute (Connecticut's program for Health Insurance Assistance, Outreach, Information and Referral, Counseling and Eligibility Screening) by eliminating sections that have become obsolete and are no longer applicable to the CHOICES program. These particular sections were put in place when there were a great number of Medicare Managed Care Plans, many of which no longer exist and have been replaced with Medicare Advantage plans. The Federal government currently provides oversight of these Medicare Managed Care plans.

The current statute states that the Commissioner of Insurance may require each Medicare organization to annually file reports with beneficiary plan data and other specified information. A Medicare organization can be fined for failure to file these annual reports. However, the Department of Insurance does not require Medicare organizations to file reports. Consequently no fines are imposed and no reports regarding the lack of filings by Medicare organizations are provided to the General Assembly by the Healthcare Advocate.

For these reasons, the State Department on Aging is proposing elimination of subsections (a) (3), (e), (f), and (g) from Section 17a-314 of the General Statutes.

I thank the committee for raising this bill on our agency's behalf. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

