

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the for 2023 Session on January 4th.
- Access Health CT Board of Directors will meet next on February 16th at 9am . Meeting materials can be found [here](#)
- The Insurance and Real Estate committee will meet on Tuesday, January 24 at 9 am 9:00 AM for an Informational Forum with AccessHealthCT and DSS. [Agenda](#). It can be watched live [here](#)
- The Insurance and Real Estate committee will have a press conference with OHS on **Wednesday, January 25 at 10:00 AM**. Watch live [here](#).



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

January 23, 2023

LEGISLATION

The Insurance and Real Estate committee has met twice so far this session. Their first meeting was organizational, and the second was to introduce a number of raised bills. A number of bill topics of interest have also been introduced by legislators. As a reminder, any introduced bills must also be raised by the Insurance and Real Estate committee in order to receive a public hearing. Below are some of the recently tracked legislative proposals. As bill language develops and public hearings are scheduled, will be sure to keep you informed. As always, we will continue to monitor all bills as they are introduced and provide updates on all legislation of interest.

Recently tracked legislation topics:

Association Health Plans:

Two bills pertaining to the authorization of Association Health Plans have been introduced by members on both sides of the aisle. Neither bill has been raised by the Insurance committee as of yet.

- HB 5800 [An Act Authorizing Credit Unions, Banks And Realtor Associations Or Organizations To Establish Or Participate In Association Health Plans](#). (Rep. Tom Delnicki)
- HB 5820 [An Act Authorizing Association Health Plans For Group And Solo Practices And Exempting Practices Covered Under Such Plans From Certain Provisions Of The Insurance Statutes](#). (Rep. John Michael Parker)

CT Partnership Plan:

- Proposed HB 5238 [An Act Requiring An Annual Independent Audit Of The Partnership Plan 2.0](#). Legislation introduced by Republican House Members Tammy Nuccio and Holly Cheeseman would require an independent audit of the state employee health plan. The bill has yet to be raised by the insurance committee.

State-funded Health Care Coverage/Public Option:

- Proposed SB 84 [An Act Opening The State Employee Health Insurance Plan To Small Business Employees](#). Democratic Senator Christine Cohen has introduced a bill proposal to allow small businesses to

buy into the state employee insurance plan. The legislation has not been raised by the Insurance and Real Estate committee yet

- SB 450 [An Act Requiring A Study Of Public Option Health Care Plans In Other States And A Recommendation For A Public Option Health Care Plan In This State.](#) Introduced by Sen. Saud Anwar. The bill has not been raised by the Insurance committee yet.

Healthcare Cost Reduction/Access Health CT Small Group Market:

- Proposed SB 86 [An Act Requiring The Insurance Commissioner To Consider Affordability As A Factor In Reviewing Individual And Group Health Insurance Policy Premium Rating Filings.](#) This legislation, proposed by Senate President Pro Temp Martin Looney, is motivated by the recent percentage increase in health insurance rate filings. The legislation has not been raised by the Insurance and Real Estate Committee yet
- Proposed SB 455 [An Act Requiring The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange To Report Additional Data.](#) This legislation, proposed by Senator Rob Sampson would require greater legislative oversight of Access Health CT

Reinsurance:

- SB 142 [An Act Concerning A State-Operated Reinsurance Program And Health Care Cost Growth.](#) As expected, Senate Minority Leader Kevin Kelly has reintroduced his proposed legislation on a state re-insurance program and additional health care cost growth measures for prescription drug pricing and purchasing
- SB 434 [An Act Concerning A State-Operated Reinsurance Program And The Regulation Of Health Care Cost Growth.](#) Ranking Republicans on the Insurance and Real Estate committee, Rep. Cara Pavalock D'Amato and Senator Tony Hwang

Other topics:

A number of bill proposals pertaining to the following topics have been introduced. We will continue to keep you updated on these topics as they develop:

- long term health insurance (and regulation)
- Prior Authorization and Step Therapy
- High deductible health plans (and their regulation)
- HUSKY 4 Immigrants- State Rep. Kate Farrar (D-20th) and state Sen. Derek Slap (D-5th) expressed their support last week for a bill that would expand legislation enacted in 2021 and 2022, which provides access to coverage for children up to the age of 12 as well as pregnant and postpartum women. The legislation would expand HUSKY Health benefits to all income-eligible persons regardless of immigration status.
 - HB 5323: [An Act Concerning The Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To All Income-Eligible Persons Regardless Of Immigration Status](#) is one version of this legislation. It has been referred to the Human Services committee.



Budget: As it is a long legislative session, the governor will propose a new biennial budget to the legislature in early February for their review, amendments, and eventual approval.

ADMINISTRATION

As previously shared, Governor Lamont is expected to release his legislative proposals in his annual budget address to the legislature in early February. The Office of Policy and Management is yet to release many of the state agency legislative proposals for the 2023 session. These proposals outline the policy priorities for each agency. When the governor's and agency legislative proposals are released, we will be sure to share details about relevant proposals.

Governor Lamont has announced that he has appointed Matt Brokman to serve as a senior advisor. Brokman will assist in the coordination of legislative, policy, and external affairs functions on behalf of the governor's office. Previously, Brokman served as chief of staff for House Majority Leader Jason Rojas. He was also chief of staff to former Speaker of the House, Joe Aresimowicz.

KEY INFORMATION RESOURCES:

- **CT Insurance Department Bulletins:** <https://portal.ct.gov/CID/Bulletins/Current-List-of-Bulletins>
- **Connecticut Paid Leave Authority website:** CTPaidLeave.org

RECENT ARTICLES AND OP-EDS OF NOTE:

- **CT NewsJunkie:** [Partnership Plan Experiences Losses](#)
- **CT Public Radio:** [Advocates call for CT to expand HUSKY health coverage to undocumented immigrants](#)
- **CT Inside Investigator:** [CT insurance partnership plan has rough year, leads to more cancer screenings](#)
- **The Hill:** [57 percent support federal government ensuring universal health care: survey](#)
- **Insurance NewsNet:** [State Getting \\$40M To Help Residents Access Health Care Coverage](#)
- **NBC CT:** [Westbrook Manufacturing Company Offers Free Health Insurance to Employees](#)
- **We-Ha.Com:** [West Hartford Legislators Call for Expansion of HUSKY Health Insurance Program](#)



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