

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the for 2023 Session on January 4th.
- Governor Ned Lamont will release his biennial budget starting with an address to the CGA on February 8th at 12pm. It will be streamed live [here](#).
- 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 has a number of public hearings scheduled for February. All hearings can be watched live [here on the committee's youtube page](#).



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

February 6, 2023

LEGISLATION

The Insurance and Real Estate committee has met three times so far this session to take action on bills- only one additional time since the last legislative update. The committee introduced a number of additional bill concepts as well as reserved several bills for a public hearing. Not much additional legislative action has been taken at this point, but we do believe things will begin to move at a much quicker rate moving forward. As a reminder, any introduced bills must also be raised by the Insurance and Real Estate committee in order to receive a public hearing. The Insurance committee has scheduled a number of public hearings for February, and dates are below. No agendas/bill topics have been announced for these hearings as of yet.

All public hearings of the Insurance committee will be held in a hybrid format- individuals will have the option to testify either via Zoom or in person before the committee. We will be sure to alert you as bills of interest are added to hearing agendas. We are also ready and available to assist with hearing sign ups and testimony drafting and submission.

February Public Hearings- Insurance and Real Estate Committee

- Tuesday, February 14 at 12:30 PM
- Thursday, February 16 at 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, February 21 at 2:30 PM
- Thursday, February 23 at 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, February 28 at 9:00 AM
- Thursday, March 2 at 2:30 PM

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. Below are some of the recently tracked legislative proposals.

Recently tracked legislation topics:

Note: Many topics have not seen any legislative action since last legislative update- we will continue to follow all tracked bills closely and keep you up to date.

Association Health Plans:

This week, NABIP-CT legislative committee members met with AHP stakeholders at CT Business & Industry Association (CBIA) to discuss potential legislative language for Association Health Plans. NABIP-CT has reviewed CBIA's proposed language which is yet to be introduced by the Insurance and Real Estate committee. NABIP-CT is prepared to engage on the legislation and will work closely with CBIA to ensure the language aligns with 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 S.B. No. 437 [An Act Requiring An Annual Audit And Report Concerning Certain Health Care Plans Administered By This State.](#) This legislation, proposed by Senator Tony Hwang (ranking Republican member of the Insurance and Real Estate committee) has been reserved for a public hearing by the committee. No hearing date for this bill has been scheduled yet.
- 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 reinsurance 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 on February 8th for legislative 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 on February 8th at 12PM (watch live on [ct-n](#)) We will monitor this address and review the proposed budget and be sure to report back on any topics of interest. 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.

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 Mirror: [Lamont unveils plan to cancel billions in CT medical debt](#)**
 - [Press Release from Governor's Office](#)
- **Insurance News Net: [Connecticut addressing broker shortage amid The Great Unwinding](#)**
- **CT Inside Investigator: [Senate Democrats announce health agenda](#)**
- **CT Mirror- CT Viewpoints Op-Ed: [The impact of rising healthcare costs on low-income families](#)**
- **CT Mirror: [Government lets health plans that ripped off Medicare keep the money](#)**
- **CT Insider: [Feds expect to collect \\$4.7B in insurance fraud penalties](#)**
- **CT Insider: [Connecticut doctors call on legislature to tackle prior authorization during this year's session](#)**



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