

## NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the for 2023 Session on January 4th.
- The Insurance and Real Estate committee has a number of meetings scheduled for March. A schedule of meetings can be found [here](#). All meetings can be streamed live [here on the committee's youtube page](#).



## LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

March 20, 2023

### LEGISLATION

The Insurance and Real Estate committee referred legislation out of committee for further action last week. Bills will now go to the Legislative Commissioner's Office and Office of Fiscal Analysis for review and a fiscal note. Any amendments made to language during the referral process will be incorporated into the language, and all of this information will then be published in "File Copy" form. File copies will then be sent to their respective chambers for a final vote. Some bills with fiscal or judicial impact may be referred to other committees for further review before final action.

The deadline to refer Insurance bills out of committee has now passed, but it is important to note that many pieces of legislation "come back" in the form of amendments on the floor. We will continue to monitor all legislation and amendments as they are published, and provide updates as necessary.

### **Recent Action on other Legislation of Interest:**

#### **House Bill 6710 An Act Concerning Association Health Plans.**

*Latest Action: Amended language referred out of committee to the floor*

- After hours of debate, HB 6710 was referred out of committee by a vote of 9 to 3, with Senate Democrats Lesser, Anwar, and Marx voting against the legislation. Sen. Lesser particularly expressed a lot of concerns with the legislation, stating that he had concerns the legislation would undermine the Affordable Care Act and that AHPs run the risk of going insolvent. After a lot of back and forth and several committee recesses, the bill was referred out of committee with an understanding that the Governor's office would help mediate discussions on the language.
- There was an amendment to the legislation, [LCO 5885](#), which requires stop-loss insurance for the plans

## **H.B. No. 6709 An Act Concerning Access Health**

*Latest Action: Amended language referred out of committee to the floor*

- This legislation would allow health carriers on the exchange to directly market and assist with enrolling members. The legislation was amended in the Insurance and Real Estate committee to also allow web brokers licensed in the state of Connecticut to enroll members. Committee chairs stated that this legislation is needed because of the number of individuals that will need to enroll through Access Health after the Medicaid redetermination on March 31. Amended language can be found [here](#).
- Healthcare Advocated Ted Doolittle ([testimony](#)), as well as Access Health CEO James Michel ([testimony](#)), opposed the legislation.
- Capitol Strategies Group will work with the NABIP legislative committee to oppose this legislation

## **HB 6712 - An Act Concerning The Removal Of Assessments On The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange**

*Latest Action: Amended language referred out of committee to Appropriations Committee*

- Legislation will: (1) Eliminate assessment fees for carriers offering qualified health plans on the exchange; (2) require that the Insurance Department conduct a study of premium reductions for health carriers offering qualified health plans on the exchange; (3) reduce the insurance premium tax rate; and (4) require the state to fund the operating costs of the exchange.
- Amended language includes an adjustment to apply legislation to the All Payer Claims data base.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Healthcare Legislation:**

### **House Bill 6669, An Act Protecting Patients and Prohibiting Unnecessary Health Care Costs**

- Last week, the Public Health committee held a public hearing on HB 6669, a proposed governor's bill. The bill includes legislation that would eliminate hospital facility fees charged at free-standing offices and clinics. NABIP-CT is supportive of legislation that prevents hospital facility fees for out patient visits and is working with stakeholders to try and strengthen this legislation.

**Budget:** The governor [proposed a new biennial budget to the legislature on February 8<sup>th</sup>](#). The budget will now undergo a process of legislative review, amendments, and eventual approval. In his proposal, the governor has included the following proposals of interest related healthcare:



- \$34.4 million to be used over the next two years to help close the affordability gap for those who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to purchase a subsidized plan on Access Health CT.
- eliminating hospital facility fees charged at free-standing offices and clinics.
- Penalties for health care organizations that eliminate services for patients.
- Establishing a pharmaceutical buying consortium with other states.

The governor's proposed budget can be found [here](#). The governor's full list of legislative proposals can be found [here](#).

The Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly is currently working with each agency to review and amend the budget. We expect to see a proposed budget from the committee by late April. A final vote on the budget is not expected until late May or early June. We will continue to keep you updated as issues arise.

#### KEY INFORMATION RESOURCES:

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

#### RECENT ARTICLES AND OP-EDS OF NOTE:

- **Governor Ned Lamont Press Release:** [Governor Lamont Proposes Legislation Expanding Access To High-Quality Maternal Health Services](#)
- **Governor Ned Lamont Press Release:** [Governor Lamont Announces Agreement To Expand Access to Health Coverage for Personal Care Attendants](#)
- **CT Mirror:** [Legislators question Lamont's approach to cutting health costs](#)
- **CT NewsJunkie:** [Former Insurance Committee Co-Chair Takes A Stand Against Association Health Plans](#)
- **CT Mirror:** [Feds move to curb health care delays caused by prior authorization](#)
- **CT Post:** [Why it's hard for the US to cut or even control Medicare spending](#)



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