

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the for 2023 Session on January 4th.
- The next House Session is scheduled for April 5th at 10am. It can be watched live at CT-N.com
- The Insurance and Real Estate committee has finished their regular business for the session. The committee bill referral deadline has passed



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

April 3, 2023

LEGISLATION

All bills referred out of the Insurance and Real Estate committee continue to move along through the standard legislative process. Bills 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 to be placed on the calendar 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:

Several bills have completed the legislative review process and have now been published in File Copy form. Details on those bills, as well as other bills we are closely following, are below. Note: Bills placed on a chamber calendar for final action can be called for a vote at any time, but we do not expect any movement on these items within the next couple of weeks. We will provide updates as we have them.

House Bill 6710 An Act Concerning Association Health Plans And Establishing A Task Force To Study Stop-loss Insurance.

Latest Action: Placed on House Calendar

- File Copy Number [330](#)
- Stakeholders continue to discuss bill language after robust debate in committee. We expect conversations on this legislation to continue



SB 6 An Act Concerning Utilization Review And Health Care Contracts, Health Insurance Coverage For Newborns And Step Therapy

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Calendar

- File Copy Number [337](#)

SB 983 An Act Limiting Anticompetitive Health Care Practices.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Calendar

- File Copy Number [341](#)

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

Latest Action: Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis

- 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](#).
- CSG is working with legislative committee members to address concerns with this language. We have heard anecdotally that the amended language was incorrect and will need additional work. We have also reached out to the Association of State Health Plans to discuss our concerns with the bill.

ADMINISTRATION

Healthcare Legislation:

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

- Last week, the Public Health committee referred HB 6669, a proposed governor's bill out of committee with no language changes. 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 has engaged with the Office of Healthcare Advocate to discuss ways to expand this legislation to reduce or eliminate hospital charges for services provided in providers' offices.



Budget: The governor [proposed a new biennial budget to the legislature on February 8th](#). 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

RECENT ARTICLES AND OP-EDS OF NOTE:

- **CT Post Opinion:** [Opinion: Offering health care options to CT's 360,000-plus small businesses](#)
- **Wilton's Hamlet Hub:** [Connecticut's First-Ever Healthcare Cost Growth Benchmark Report Confirms the Need for Reforms To Make Healthcare More Affordable](#)
- **CT Patch:** [Percentage of CT Residents with Health Insurance Coverage Increased](#)
- **CT Post Op-Ed Senators Kelly and Hwang:** [Opinion: The Republican solution on affordable health care](#)
- **CT Inside Investigator:** [Connecticut spent \\$3 billion more on healthcare in 2021, according to report](#)
- **DoingItLocal.com:** [CT's Immigrant Community and HealthCare Advocates Demand Connecticut "Invest in Our Health"](#)
- **CT Mirror:** [CT's health costs increasing twice as fast as goal set by Lamont](#)
- **CT NewsJunkie:** [Connecticut's Health Care Spending Topped \\$34B In 2021](#)
- **Yale Daily News:** [Connecticut hospitals face record financial losses](#)
- **Stat: (paywalled article about Broker Academy)** [How can states keep people insured after Medicaid protections lapse? Connecticut has an idea](#)



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