

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the 2023 Session on January 4th. The session ends June 7th.
- The next House and Senate Sessions are scheduled for May 3rd and 4th at 11am. 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

May 1, 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 Finance, Revenue, and Bonding and Appropriations committees have both referred their proposed budget documents out of committee. A copy of the Appropriations committee's budget proposal can be found [here](#).

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:

This week, many of our high priority bills were referred to the Appropriations committee because of their financial impact on the state budget.

The Appropriations committee must take action on these bills by Wednesday of next week.

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: Referred to Appropriations

- File Copy Number [330](#)
- The bill has now been referred to Appropriations.
- Stakeholders continue to discuss bill language after robust debate in committee. Capitol Strategies Group and members of the NABIP-CT legislative committee are speaking with stakeholders in order to negotiate support of the bill.
- NABIP-CT has also put out [a legislative alert](#) asking brokers to reach out to their legislators in support of the legislation.
- We expect conversations on this legislation to continue

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

Latest Action: Referred to Appropriations

- [File Copy Number No. 306](#)
- This bill has been referred to the Appropriations committee. It has [a financial cost](#) to the state of greater than 3.3 million dollars.
- 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 major concerns with this language. Access Health CT shares our concerns with the language. We will work with them to advocate for language changes.

H.B. 6634 An Act Concerning Site Of Service Reimbursements

Latest Action: Referred to Appropriations

- File Copy Number [357](#)
- This bill has been referred to the Appropriations committee. A bipartisan amendment was also [filed](#) on the legislation late last week. The amendment has not yet been adopted, but would apply the provisions of the legislation to uninsured individuals in addition to covered individuals.
- Beginning January 1, 2024, this bill requires a hospital-based facility that is located away from a hospital campus (“off-site”) to submit with each claim the facility’s national provider

identifier (NPI) and federal tax identification number. The NPI and tax identification number must be:

1. separate from those issued to the hospital campus and
 2. included in any reimbursement claim for services the facility provided, regardless of whether the facility or the hospital or another facility submits the claim.
- Under the bill, health carriers are not required to reimburse or pay a health care provider for a claim for a service or item provided to a covered person at an off-site hospital-based facility unless the provider submits the claim using the separate NPI or tax identification number as described above. Off-site hospital-based facilities, or their designees, that do not file claims in this way cannot hold the covered person liable for payment.
 - Additionally, starting January 1, 2024, the bill prohibits off-site hospital based facilities in Connecticut from charging a facility fee, unless it is mutually agreed to in a contract between a health carrier and the hospital.
 - NABIP-CT legislative committee representatives have spoken with the state Healthcare Advocate on this legislation. Members shared their concerns that clients who go to doctors at hospital-owned health practices are often being charged hospital prices for off-site services. The OHA has indicated they believe this legislation will achieve the intended goal of preventing providers from charging patients hospital-based fees for office visits and procedures.

SB 983 An Act Limiting Anticompetitive Health Care Practices.

Latest Action: Referred to Appropriations

- File Copy Number [341](#)
- This legislation has been referred to the Appropriations committee because of its fiscal impact.

ADMINISTRATION

Healthcare Legislation:

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

Latest Action: Referred to Appropriations

- File Copy Number [453](#)
- This legislation has been referred to the Appropriations committee because of its fiscal impact.
- 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](#). In mid-April, the Appropriations and Finance, Revenue, and Bonding committee released their official response to the governor's budget. Negotiations about the content of the budget continue to be on going.

- A copy of the Appropriations Committee's proposed budget can be found [here](#).

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:

- Fierce Healthcare: [Connecticut hospitals bill more than \\$1B in facility fees](#)
- CT Post: [Opinion: Association health plans level the playing field](#)
- CT Mirror: [CT legislative leaders and Lamont are gridlocked on spending cap](#)
- CT Mirror (Viewpoints): [More ways to reduce CT's healthcare costs](#)
- CBIA Opinion: [Kerry Wood: Commonsense Solutions for Connecticut Problems](#)



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