

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the 2024 Session on February 7th. The session ends May 8th.
- Next House Session and Session Dates: TBD
- Legislative Sessions can be watched live at CT-N.com
- The Insurance and Real Estate committee will meet next for a public hearing on Feb 27th at 9 am.
- All Insurance and Real Estate Committee meeting agendas can be found on the Insurance Committee webpage. All meetings can be watched remotely on the Committee's youtube page.



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

February 26, 2024

LEGISLATION

The Insurance and Real Estate Committee has met twice so far this legislative session. Their next meeting will be a [public hearing](#) on Tuesday, February 27th at 9 am. Thirteen bills are up for a hearing, including the Association Health Plan legislation, [HB 5247 - An Act Concerning Employee Health Benefit Consortiums](#). NABIP-CT will be submitting written testimony in support of this legislation. A link to NABIP's testimony in support of the legislation last year can be found [here](#). We encourage members to also consider testifying on the legislation or submitting testimony in support.

How to testify:

HB 5247 has received some strong opposition this year and it will be important to submit or provide testimony to the committee in support of the bill. Written testimony can be submitted for the committee's review, but individuals can also sign up to speak to the committee in person or remotely via zoom.

Please refer to these health plans as **Employee Health Benefit Consortiums** in your written and in-person testimony.

- [SUBMIT TESTIMONY](#)
- [REGISTER TO SPEAK](#) (Deadline to sign up is Monday Feb. 26 at 3:00 PM)

Other Legislation of Interest:

[SB 210: An Act Concerning A State-operated Reinsurance Program, Health Care Cost Growth And Site Of Service Billing Requirements.](#)

- Purpose of the Legislation: To: (1) Implement a state-operated reinsurance program; (2) include hospitals in the health care cost growth and primary care spending target benchmark program administered by the Office of Health Strategy; and (3) require hospital-based facilities to submit such facility's national provider identifier and tax identification number with each claim for reimbursement.

- Current Status: Scheduled for [Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27th](#).

The deadline to refer Insurance bills out of committee is March 21, 2024. We will continue to monitor all legislation and amendments as they are published, and provide updates as necessary.

ADMINISTRATION

HB 5054: [An Act Addressing Health Care Affordability](#).

- Governor's Bill
- Legislation directs the Office of Health Strategy to establish affordability standards, which will integrate into rate review the health insurance carriers' efforts to keep yearly increases in premiums at or below the benchmark.
- It also directs OHS to explore best practices for prescription drug affordability, monitor policies in other states, and launch a prescription drug affordability board (PDAB) to work with similar panels across the country. a review of how well health insurers prioritize affordability.
- Includes four new positions targeted at hospital oversight in the state's Office of Health Strategy. One would support "expanded" financial monitoring of hospitals, "to develop advanced warning of financial distress," and to strengthen Connecticut's certificate of need review process.
- The bill also forms an oversight commission to advise the Office of Health Strategy on advancing health equity and supporting equitable access to affordable and high-quality health care for underserved populations
- Current Status: Scheduled for [Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27th](#).

HB 5053: [An Act Concerning the Governor's Budget Recommendations for Health and Human Services](#)

- Governor's Bill
- Includes language that would decrease the eligibility threshold for the state's Medicaid HUSKY A program from 160% of the federal poverty level, or FPL, to 138%. Individuals who would no longer qualify for Medicaid would instead be able to receive coverage under the Covered Connecticut program, a zero-premium, no cost-share coverage plan through the state's health insurance exchange.
- Current Status: Scheduled for [Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27th](#).

Governor Lamont addressed a joint session of the Connecticut General Assembly on Feb. 7th. He presented his [FY 2025 Recommended Budget Adjustments](#). A video and transcript of the address can be viewed [here](#) . The Appropriations Committee is currently working to draft their response to the governor's proposal. A final draft of their proposal will be released in late March.



KEY INFORMATION RESOURCES:

- **CT Insurance Department Bulletins:** <https://portal.ct.gov/CID/Bulletins/Current-List-of-Bulletins>
- **Connecticut Paid Leave Authority website:** CTPaidLeave.org
- **Access Health CT Meeting Agendas and Minutes:** <https://agency.accesshealthct.com/boards-committees>

RECENT ARTICLES AND OP-EDS OF NOTE:

- **CT Mirror:** [Report: CT Medicaid underpays many health care providers](#)
- **CT Public Radio:** [Advocates call for CT expansion of Husky health care budget to cover immigrant minors up to age 18](#)
- **CT Examiner:** [Lawmakers Push for Insurance Companies to Cover Heart Scans](#)
- **CT Insider:** [CT lawmakers want \\$3.3 million a year for abortion, family planning services](#)
- **CT NewsJunkie (Analysis):** [GOVERNOR'S HEALTHCARE BUDGET IS A MIXED BAG](#)
- **CT NewsJunkie:** [Senate Democrats Highlight Plans For Healthcare, Paid Sick Leave](#)



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