

## 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 March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.
- The deadline to refer bills out of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee is Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 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

March 11, 2024

### LEGISLATION

The Insurance and Real Estate Committee is currently engaged in the Public Hearing process of the legislative session. They have had three hearings so far and have two additional hearings scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday of this week.

Last week, the committee held a public hearing on [HB 5247 - An Act Concerning Employee Health Benefit Consortiums](#) and NABIP-CT [submitted written testimony in support of this legislation](#). A number of stakeholders including small employers, trade associations, nonprofits, and healthcare policy experts shared their attended the hearing to share their support for the legislation. The House Republican Caucus also [submitted testimony in support of the bill](#). The bill did receive some comments of concern from the [CT Office of the Healthcare Advocate](#) as well as patient advocates, so continued advocacy in support of the bill will be critical in the coming weeks. No additional action has been taken on the bill as of yet, but we do expect it to be called for a vote out of committee in the next couple of weeks.

The Insurance and Real Estate Committee has until March 21<sup>st</sup> to refer bills out of committee. [As of today, they have two meetings scheduled on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> to refer bills](#). We will continue to monitor all legislation and amendments as they are published, and provide updates as necessary.

### **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: Awaiting referral out of committee

#### [HB 5377 - An Act Concerning The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange.](#)

- Purpose of the Legislation: to require the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange to hold public meetings and receive legislative approval prior to (1) entering into nondisclosure or settlement agreements, or (2) charging assessments or user fees or changing the amount of, or process used to calculate, assessments or user fees.
- HB 5377 had a Public Hearing on March 5<sup>th</sup>. [Access Health CT](#) and the [Office of the Healthcare Advocate](#) testified against the bill. CBIA testified in [support](#).
- NABIP-CT plans to submit testimony in support of the legislation.
- Current Status: Awaiting referral out of committee

### **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: Awaiting referral out of committee

#### 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: Awaiting referral out of committee



Governor Lamont addressed a joint session of the Connecticut General Assembly on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://CTPaidLeave.org)
- **Access Health CT Meeting Agendas and Minutes:** <https://agency.accesshealthct.com/boards-committees>

## RECENT ARTICLES AND OP-EDS OF NOTE:

- **CBIA: [Broad Support for Small Business Employee Healthcare Bill](#)**
- **CT NewsJunkie: [Paraeducators Ask Education Committee For Better Wages And Health Insurance](#)**
- **HBJ: [CT Insurance Dept. to insurers: Be aware of AI's pitfalls](#)**
- **WSHU CT Public Radio: [CT lawmakers consider bill requiring insurance companies to expand IVF coverage](#)**



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