

## NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the 2024 Session on February 7th. The session ends May 8th.
- Next Senate Session Date: April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM
- Next House Session Dates: April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30 and May 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8. Times TBA
- Legislative Sessions can be watched live at CT-N.com
- The deadline to refer bills out of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee was Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. All bills in the committee are now dead.



## LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

April 16, 2024

### LEGISLATION

The deadline to refer bills out of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee was Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5PM. As discussed in the last update, committee leadership failed to agree on an agenda of bills by this deadline, and in an [unprecedented occurrence](#), not a single bill was referred out of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee this year. All 40 bills under the committee's purview have died.

This includes priority bill [HB 5247 - An Act Concerning Employee Health Benefit Consortiums](#).

There has been no further developments on any Insurance committee bills over the last two weeks, but [legislative leaders have stated that they intend to resurrect priority bills](#) through the amendment or emergency certification process. They have not yet said which bills they plan to save, but House Speaker Matt Ritter acknowledged bills will need approval from all caucuses in order to avoid lengthy debates.

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: **Dead**

[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: **Dead**

## 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: **Dead**

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: [Amended](#) and Referred out of the Appropriations Committee and to the Floor of the House

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 and Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committees chose not to



respond to the governor's proposed budget revisions. [Legislative leadership in the majority still plan to move some resources around in the next budget without formally adjusting the plan or changing the bottom line but details are slim at this time.](#) As 2024 is a budget off year (CT adopts a biennial budget every other year, adopting the FY23- 24 and FY24-25 Budget in the 2023 session) the legislature is not required to revise the budget, although they typically do.

#### **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: [Small Business Employee Healthcare Bill Faces Uncertain Future](#)**
- **CT Insider: [CT Democrats plan to resurrect bills that died when Insurance Committee 'ran out of time'](#)**
- **CT Mirror: [Panel backs new CT budget with built-in shortfalls, few details](#)**
- **CT Mirror: [Leaders now say they can fix CT budget without adding big dollars](#)**
- **CT Examiner: [Health Care Costs Rising Amid Hospital Mergers, State Report Finds](#)**



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