

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the 2024 Session on February 7th. The session ends May 8th.
- Next Senate Session Date: April 30, May 1-3
- Next House Session Dates: April 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 21st. All bills in the committee are now dead.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

April 30, 2024

LEGISLATION

The deadline to refer bills out of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee was Thursday, March 21st 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](#).

However, House Insurance Chair Rep. Kerry Wood has continued to lobby her colleagues on the issue and currently has enough votes to ensure passage in the House. While it is still unclear if the Senate would act on the bill, proponents continue to ask the Speaker of the House for a vote.

Members interested in asking their legislators to support HB 5247 can do so by clicking [here](#).

We will continue to monitor all legislation and amendments as they are published, and provide updates as necessary. The legislature is fast approaching its May 8th deadline, and we expect to see a lot of action on legislation over the next two weeks.

Other Legislation of Interest:

SB 8 [AN ACT CONCERNING DRUG AFFORDABILITY](#)

This bill takes various steps to address prescription drug affordability and access for Connecticut consumers, including:

1. requiring the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to establish the Canadian Prescription Drug Importation Program to import from Canada safe and effective drugs with potential cost savings for Connecticut's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) programs;
2. Establishing the Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) and Prescription Drug Affordability Stakeholder Council to review and make recommendations on prescription drugs' costs and affordability;
3. allowing PDAB to review and set upper payment limits for drugs with high inflation or affordability challenges;



4. prohibiting state entities and health insurance plans from purchasing, and pharmacies from distributing to certain consumers, drugs purchased at a price higher than its upper payment limit;.
5. requiring state entities and health insurance plans to use cost savings attributable to an upper payment limit to reduce consumers' health care costs;
6. prohibiting manufacturers from withdrawing from distribution in Connecticut a drug with an established upper payment limit without first notifying the state and contracted purchasers;
7. requiring state entities and health insurance plans to cover, in a preferred tier and without copayment or out-of-pocket costs, insulin products at the lowest wholesale acquisition cost;
8. requiring Connecticut hospitals and drug purchasing agencies to have drug shortage prevention strategies that cover at least one third of the expected use of at least 40 drugs; and
9. prohibiting drug manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors from limiting, or requiring claims and utilization data as a condition of, a pharmacy or health care organization's access to drugs under the federal 340B drug program.

- Current Status: **Awaiting Action in the Senate**

[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.
- 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.
- 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: [Bill awaiting action in the house](#)

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 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
- **Access Health CT Meeting Agendas and Minutes:** <https://agency.accesshealthct.com/boards-committees>

RECENT ARTICLES AND OP-EDS OF NOTE:

- **CT Mirror:** [Facing deadline, CT's legislative factory comes to life](#)
- **CT Insider Column:** [Dan Haar: CT doctors skipping paychecks amid medical claims crisis. Are furloughs next?](#)
- **CT NewsJunkie Opinion:** [ANALYSIS | THE GOVERNOR COULD BE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE](#)





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