

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

January 21, 2025

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the for 2025 Session on January 8th and will adjourn on June 4th.
- The next meeting of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee will be on Tues. Jan 21 at 10:30am.
- Committee meetings and legislative Sessions can be watched live at CT-N.com
- The Insurance committee also streams and records all meetings on youtube [here](#).
- The deadline to refer bills out of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee will be March 18th.



2025 SESSION OPENING AND OUTLOOK

The Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) convened for the 2023 Legislative Session on Wednesday, January

Democrats will begin the 2025 session with strong majorities in both chambers. In the House, Democrats hold a 101-49 majority (with one vacancy) and in the Senate, a 25- 10 majority over Republicans (with one vacancy). State Senator Jorge Cabrera (D, Hamden) will once again serve as the chair of the Insurance and Real Estate committee alongside house chair of the committee, state Representative Kerry Wood (D, Rocky Hill). Ranking Republican members on the Insurance committee will remain Senator Tony Hwang (R, Fairfield) and Cara Pavalock D'Amato (R, Bristol).

Senator Matt Lesser (D, Middletown), will once again serve as chair of the Human Services committee, and his house counterpart will be state Representative Jillian Gilchrest (D, West Hartford).

Caucus leadership will once again remain the same as last session. In the House, Democrat Speaker Matt Ritter will preside over the House once again. Majority Leader Jason Rojas will help him lead the House Democratic caucus. Republican Rep. Vin Candelora will lead the minority party in the House. In the Senate, President Pro Tempore Martin Looney and Senate Majority Bob Duff will lead the Democrats again, and Senator Stephen Harding will serve his caucus as the Senate Republican leader once again as well.

Once again, legislative rules will continue to allow committee members to attend meetings either in person or virtually. The legislature also plans to continue to provide a video conference/phone option for public hearings.

LEGISLATION

The Insurance and Real Estate Committee has met one time so far this session to do committee introductions and raise a number of [bill concepts](#) as committee bills. There is no bill language drafted for these concepts at this time. We will continue to monitor all bills as they are introduced and provide updates on all legislation of

interest.

Potential legislation topics:

State-funded Health Care Coverage/Public Option: Democratic legislators have once again introduced legislation indenting to establish a state funded healthcare system. [HB 5438 An Act Concerning Public Options For Health Care In Connecticut](#) has been referred to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. The bill was introduced by several Dem House members: Rep. Anne M. Hughes, 135th Dist., Rep. Brandon Chafee, 33rd Dist., Rep. Nick Gauthier, 38th Dist., Rep. Mike Demicco, 21st Dist. And Rep. Nicholas Menapace, 37th Dist.

Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements: Republican Representative Tom Delnicki has [introduced legislation](#) allowing for Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements (MEWA), also known as Association health plans. The CT Business and Industry Association, along with stakeholders including NABIP-CT, have advocated for this type of legislation for several years now. We once again expect the legislation to be an uphill battle, as the legislation has become a target of progressive legislators like Senator Lesser. Republican Representative John Piscopo has also introduced [similar legislation](#).

Senate Republican Healthcare Reform Proposals: Senate Republicans are expected to reintroduce many of their proposal's from previous years, including reinsurance, prescription drug pricing, employee health benefit consortiums (see above) and transparency-focused reforms. So far, Senator Tony Hwang and Representative Cara Pavalock D'Amato, Republican Ranking members on insurance, have introduced [SB 188 An Act Concerning A State-Operated Reinsurance Program And The Regulation Of Health Care Cost Growth](#).

Budget: As it is a long legislative session, the governor will propose a new biennial budget to the legislature in early February (Feb 6) for their review, amendments, and eventual approval. We do expect his proposal to include language pertaining to healthcare and insurance costs.

ADMINISTRATION

Governor Lamont is expected to release his legislative proposals in his annual budget address to the legislature in early February. The governor has continued to publicize his opposition to a state-run public option program. The Office of Policy and Management has released state agency legislative proposals for the 2025 session. These proposals outline the policy priorities for each agency. The Department of Insurance's legislative proposals can be found [here](#). Proposals from the department pertinent to health insurance were mostly technical in nature. =

RECENT ARTICLES AND OP-EDS OF NOTE:

- CT Insider: [Connecticut's health care outlook for 2025: Rising costs amid Trump uncertainty](#)
- Hartford Courant: [There's a new medical group forming in CT. It promises an innovative twist on patient primary care.](#)
- CT Insider Op-Ed: [Opinion: Insurance companies decide whether we live or die](#)
- Hartford Courant: [CT health system, insurer reach 11th hour contract agreement. What that means for patients.](#)
- Patch: [Middletown Resident Accused Of Defrauding CT's HUSKY Insurance Program](#)
- NBC Connecticut News Broadcast: [Denied health insurance claims are a common occurrence in CT, data shows](#)

KEY INFORMATION RESOURCES:

- **CT Insurance Department Bulletins:** https://portal.ct.gov/cid/department-resources/current-list-of-bulletins?language=en_US
- **Connecticut Paid Leave Authority website:** CTPaidLeave.org



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