

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - MAR. 22, 2024

SENATE DEMOCRATS PRIORITY BILL RECEIVES PUBLIC HEARING:

- **SB 1 - An Act Concerning the Health and Safety of Connecticut Residents** - The Public Health Committee met on Monday hearing testimony on a Senate Democrats priority bill that looks to: (1) provide comprehensive STEP therapy strategies for individuals experiencing first episodes of psychosis; (2) create a framework for health care systems to have resiliency when dealing with cyber-attacks; (3) create a NASH (nonalcoholic steatohepatitis) task force to address those individuals with the disease; (4) provide that cat scans for cardiac diseases are covered; (5) provide transparency and risk communication with individuals, families and communities/neighborhoods where home healthcare workers perform their duties; (6) provide workforce training specific to home healthcare workers; (7) enlist technology to keep workers safe; (8) provide grants for smaller home healthcare facilities; (9) address payment reform on escort work; and (10) develop a pilot program to explore ACT (assertive community treatment) multi-disciplined teams.
- **SB 4 - An Act Concerning Victims of Domestic Violence, The Unsolicited Transmission of Intimate Images by Means of Electronic Communication Device and the Impermissible Use of Nondisclosure Agreements in the Workplace** - The Judiciary Committee met on Wednesday also hearing testimony on a Senate Democrats priority bill that would: (1) expand the initiatives to provide legal assistance for individuals seeking restraining orders; (2) address "cyberflashing"; (3) ban nondisclosure agreements when settling a sexual harassment case; and (4) amend the state's constitution to protect women's access to full spectrum reproductive health care.

COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARINGS THIS WEEK: Other notable public hearings:

- **JUDICIARY** - The Judiciary Committee held public hearings on Monday and Wednesday this week. Testimony was heard on a variety of bills including those that would: (1) establish time/cost parameters relating to requests for health records/allow for penalties to a practicing physician, surgeon/ third-party vendor acting on behalf of such physician or surgeon, for failure to submit a medical report within thirty days after the report's completion; (2) establish a jobs program for youth impacted by the juvenile justice system; (3) make nondisclosure agreements impermissible in the workplace; (4) allow law enforcement to stop/search a motor vehicle/person in a motor vehicle based solely on the odor of cannabis if said law enforcement officer reasonably believes a minor under the age of eighteen is in such motor vehicle; (5) enact the recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee; and (6) make modification to the CT Siting Council Process and Review.
- **PUBLIC HEALTH** - The Public Health Committee held a public hearing on Monday. Testimony was presented on bills that would: (1) add items to the list requiring a Certificate of Need to include, among other things: (a) the relocation of outpatient, behavioral health care, substance abuse, women's health care or emergency medical services outside of the municipality; (b) investment in a health care facility by private

equity companies; and (c) any transaction in which a private equity company acquired controlling interest in a large group practice; (2) impose disciplinary action against hospitals/birthing centers for failure to report adverse events; (3) amend the definition of "large group practice" and "group practice" regarding Certificates of Need; and (4) provides that the Departments of Public Health, Social Services and Agriculture develop and implement by January 1, 2025 a cross-enrollment plan to coordinate WIC, SNAP and CT Farmers Market WIC benefits.

- **FINANCE** - The Finance Committee held a public hearing on Wednesday and another this morning on bills that would: (1) eliminate film production tax credits; (2) eliminate certain licensing fees for nurses; and (3) add an additional \$5 million in bonding to the Microgrid Program.

ENERGY COMMITTEE FINISHES ITS WORK: The Energy and Technology Committee finished its work before the Joint Favorable Deadline. On Thursday, the Committee voted out a number of bills; including bills that, among others: (1) support solar in schools; (2) give DEEP new Procurement Authority for nuclear and offshore wind; (3) expand solar in the state; (4) make changes to siting rules around large solar projects; and (5) tighten the utility shut off provisions.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE REACHES DEADLINE WITHOUT REPORTING OUT ANY BILLS: The Insurance Committee cancelled a planned meeting on its committee "Joint Favorable" deadline and, as such, ended its business without reporting out any bills. There is a chance that some of the committee's bills could be attached as amendments on to other bills later in the process.

NEXT WEEK/SESSION: The House of Representatives will convene Monday to vote on various judicial, executive, and legislative nominations.

GOVERNOR LAMONT ANNOUNCES BROADBAND FUNDING: In a press release on Monday (found [here](#)), Governor Lamont announced the availability of \$41million in funds to be used toward the expansion of broadband infrastructure/improvement of internet connectivity in communities facing challenges to digital access within the state. The funding will be administered by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection via the ConneCTed Communities Grant Program which is financed by the state's share of American Rescue Plan Act Capital Project Fund monies.

GOVERNOR LAMONT URGES PASSAGE OF PAID SICK DAY LEGISLATION: On Monday, Governor Lamont issued a press release (found [here](#)) urging the General Assembly to pass [SB 12 - An Act Modernizing the Paid Sick Days Statutes](#) which would: (1) require all employers to provide their employees with paid sick days; (2) expand the definition of "family member" when using paid sick time; and (3) outline prohibited practices by an employer regarding an employee's use of their paid sick time. The bill was voted out of the Labor Committee on Thursday.

JF DEADLINES: The Banking Committee, General Law Committee, Higher Education Committee, Insurance and Real Estate Committee, Public Safety Committee, and Transportation

Committee all met their JF deadlines this week. Any bill not voted out of committee is considered "dead" and will be moved to the end of your weekly bill tracking report.