2013 Bill Tracking Report

February 1, 2013

To our readers: This report tracks bills that have been introduced in the Connecticut General Assembly and are of interest to Connecticut Children's Medical Center. You can Control-click on the bill title in order to link to the relevant page on the Connecticut General Assembly website, which includes bill text, bill history, legislative summaries and vote tallies.

Bills are sorted into TOPICS:

Child Health Advocacy, such as bills related to teen driving restrictions and newborn screening, begins in this report on **page 1**.

Clinical, such as bills related to telemedicine and behavioral health care services, begins in this report on **page 6**.

Hospital Operations and Financial, such as bills related to provider licensing or worker's compensation requirements, begins in this report on **page 9.**

Government Agencies/Health Care Systems, such as bills related to universal coverage or state-sponsored programs, begins in this report on **page 15.**

General State Finance, a new section this year due to the increased focus on balancing the state budget, begins in this report on **page 20.**

Note: This year, there are an unusually large number of bills related to **behavioral health care**. To facilitate your review of those bills, you will find an asterisk next to the bill number in this report.

CHILD HEALTH ADVOCACY

Senate Bill 640

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES COURSE FOR NEW DRIVERS OVER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.

Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Transportation Committee

PURPOSE To improve the affordability and effectiveness of home training for certain driving students in Connecticut.

Senate Bill 465
AN ACT REQUIRING NEWBORN SCREENING FOR ADRENOLEUKODYSTROPHY.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To require that newborns be screened for adrenoleukodystrophy.

Senate Bill 437
AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF CAFFEINATED ENERGY DRINKS TO PERSONS UNDER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE.
Feb 1, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To prohibit the sale of caffeinated energy drinks to persons under sixteen years of age.

***Senate Bill 367**
AN ACT CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG ADULTS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To establish a comprehensive system to provide intervention, referrals, resources, support services and coordinated care to young adults ages sixteen to twenty-six, inclusive, who are in need of such services as a result of a psychological or developmental challenge and to provide referral and support services to their parents or guardians.

Senate Bill 363
AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OBESE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To provide a standard of care for persons who are obese and in need of health care services.

Senate Bill 61
AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE TO CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS.
Jan 25, 2013 Reserved for Subject Matter Public Hearing
PURPOSE To allow school nurses to administer epinephrine to children in the event of an emergency without a physician's order.

Senate Bill 84
AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING OF SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS TO ADMINISTER EPINEPHRINE TO STUDENTS.
Jan 10, 2013 Referred to Education Committee
PURPOSE To prevent the loss of life or injury to students with allergies.

Senate Bill 13
AN ACT CONCERNING DIABETES EDUCATION.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Education Committee
PURPOSE To educate students about diabetes and to help prevent type 2 diabetes in school age children.

Senate Bill 104
AN ACT ALLOWING NEWLY LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS TO TRANSPORT IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS TO AND FROM SCHOOL.
Jan 10, 2013 Referred to Transportation Committee
PURPOSE To eliminate a restriction placed on newly licensed drivers to allow such drivers to transport immediate family members to school.

Senate Bill 131
AN ACT ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT TO ADD FLUORIDE TO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.
Jan 11, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To eliminate the mandate to put fluoride in the water supply.

House Bill 5108
AN ACT CONCERNING PARENTAL CONSENT FOR USE OF INDOOR TANNING DEVICES BY PERSONS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To require that children under age eighteen have parental consent in order to use indoor tanning devices.

House Bill 5280
AN ACT PROHIBITING SMOKING IN MOTOR VEHICLES WITH MINOR CHILDREN.
Jan 14, 2013 Referred to Transportation Committee
PURPOSE To protect children from secondhand smoke.

House Bill 5299
AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF ANTIEPILEPTIC MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOL SETTINGS.
Jan 15, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To facilitate prompt medicinal response to an epileptic seizure to certain children attending public and nonpublic schools in the event that a qualified school nurse is not present to administer the required medication in a timely manner by authorizing a trained unlicensed surrogate to administer the **medication**.

House Bill 5373
AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS FROM POWER OUTAGES.
Jan 17, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To protect vulnerable populations in the event of a power outage.

House Bill 5380
AN ACT PROHIBITING SMOKING IN MOTOR VEHICLES WITH MINOR CHILDREN.
Jan 17, 2013 Referred to Transportation Committee
PURPOSE To protect children from secondhand smoke.

House Bill 5432
AN ACT EXPANDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF SPECIALIZED FORMULA FOR CHILDREN WITH EOSINOPHILIC DISORDERS.
Jan 18, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To expand health insurance coverage of specialized formula for children with eosinophilic disorders to age twenty-six.

***House Bill 5471**
AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE LAWS REGARDING YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION.
Jan 22, 2013 Referred to Education Committee
PURPOSE To bring awareness to the signs and symptoms of youth suicide and to develop ways to prevent its occurrence.

***House Bill 5512**
AN ACT EXPANDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.
Jan 22, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To expand health insurance coverage to cover mental health therapy services with any health care provider of the insured's choice and long-term hospitalization.

***House Bill 5534**
AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING FOR CHILDREN.
Jan 22, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To have children screened for mental health at their yearly exams.

House Bill 5537
AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE TO SCHOOL CHILDREN IN AN EMERGENCY.
Jan 22, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To allow a school nurse to use an auto-injector to administer epinephrine to any student when necessary.

***House Bill 5567**
AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Children Committee
PURPOSE To establish a comprehensive children's mental health plan to identify and manage mental health issues in children eighteen years old or less.

***House Bill 5632**
AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PEDIATRIC AUTOIMMUNE NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDER ASSOCIATED WITH STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To require health insurance coverage of all treatments associated with pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal infections.

House Bill 5744
AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To increase the state's childhood vaccination rate.

House Bill 5918
AN ACT CONCERNING PRIVATE DUTY NURSING FOR SEVERELY DISABLED CHILDREN.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Human Services Committee
PURPOSE To provide coverage for private duty nursing for severely disabled children in the HUSKY, Part B program.

***House Bill 5931**
AN ACT REQUIRING MENTAL HEALTH PARITY.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To require parity in mental health coverage in line with coverage for medical, surgical or other physical health conditions.

House Bill 5981
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON CHILDHOOD LEUKEMIA.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To create a task force to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to address the long-term effects of treatment for childhood leukemia.

House Bill 5988
AN ACT CONCERNING HEARING ASSESSMENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To improve identification of noise-induced hearing loss in middle school students.

House Bill 5991
AN ACT CONCERNING HEARING ASSESSMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To improve identification of and prevent hearing loss among high school students.

***House Bill 5992**
AN ACT CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To enhance the care and treatment of persons with psychiatric disabilities.

House Bill 6241
AN ACT CONCERNING ALLERGY TESTING FOR CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA.
Jan 28, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To encourage allergy testing of children with chronic and severe asthma by primary care physicians to achieve better compliance with the National Institute of Health's guidelines, to identify potential triggers of childhood asthma and to encourage better asthma management.

House Bill 6159
AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANTIEPILEPTIC MEDICATIONS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN.
Jan 25, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To allow certain unlicensed persons to administer antiepileptic medications to school children.

***Senate Bill 650**
AN ACT CREATING A PARENTS' SUPPORT HOT LINE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN EXHIBITING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES.
Jan 25, 2013 Referred to Children Committee
PURPOSE To develop a one-stop support mechanism for parents' whose children are exhibiting behavioral health issues allowing the parents to receive both emotional support and education regarding their child's behavioral health.

CLINICAL

***Senate Bill 499**
AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTY OF A PSYCHIATRIST TO WARN LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES OF A DANGEROUS INDIVIDUAL IN SUCH PSYCHIATRIST'S CARE.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To require psychiatrists to alert local and state law enforcement authorities if they determine that a patient they are treating is either a threat or danger to himself or herself or to others.

***Senate Bill 478**
AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Human Services Committee
PURPOSE To provide proactive mental health services for the children and young adults with the greatest need.

Senate Bill 466
AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES FOR PHYSICIANS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To allow physicians to replace required continuing education courses with courses related to their specialty under certain circumstances.

***Senate Bill 374**
AN ACT REQUIRING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR CHILDREN.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To provide behavioral health assessments to children.

Senate Bill 371
AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION FOR TECHNICIANS WHO DECONTAMINATE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To reduce hospital-acquired infections by certifying persons who decontaminate surgical instruments.

***Senate Bill 360**
AN ACT CONCERNING PEDIATRIC AUTOIMMUNE NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDER ASSOCIATED WITH STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To establish an outreach and education program for health care providers for the recognition of and treatment options for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal infections.

Senate Bill 341
AN ACT CONCERNING STEP THERAPY AND OFF-LABEL PRESCRIBING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To prohibit (1) insurance companies from requiring a prescription drug to be prescribed more than once for a specific insured before such insured's health care provider may prescribe a different prescription drug for such insured, and (2) anyone other than the insured's treating health care provider from assigning off-label prescription drug regimens for an insured.

***Senate Bill 262**
AN ACT REQUIRING NOTICE BY PSYCHIATRISTS CONCERNING PATIENTS THAT MAY POSE A THREAT TO THEMSELVES OR OTHERS.
Jan 22, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To require psychiatric professionals to provide notice to authorities when a patient is a threat to himself or herself or to other persons.

***Senate Bill 169**
AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT AND DELIVERY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND INTERVENTIONS FOR CHILDREN.
Jan 17, 2013 Referred to Children Committee
PURPOSE To enhance the provision of social, emotional, behavioral and mental health services.

Senate Bill 62
AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PATIENT CELLS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To allow patients whose cells are being used in medical research to obtain information regarding the use of such cells and to provide patients with a certain percentage of the money received from the sale of such cells.

Senate Bill 147
AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF ORALLY AND INTRAVENOUSLY ADMINISTERED MEDICATIONS.
Jan 16, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To require health insurance that provide coverage for intravenously administered medications for the treatment or palliation or therapeutic intervention for the prevention of disabling or life-threatening chronic diseases to provide coverage for orally administered medications for such treatment, palliation or intervention on a basis no less favorable than intravenously administered medications.

House Bill 5989
AN ACT CONCERNING PHYSICIAN'S ORDERS FOR LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To allow patients determined to have less than one year to live to establish more complete and binding end-of-life medical care directions, which are converted to a set of portable medical orders.

House Bill 5985
AN ACT CONCERNING STEM CELL RESEARCH AND PEDIATRIC CANCER.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To support pediatric cancer research through stem cell research.

House Bill 5642
AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FORMS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A UNIFORM TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To allow health care providers to use his or her national provider identification number on Health Care Financing Administration Fifteen Hundred health insurance claim forms, and to direct the development of a uniform treatment authorization form for mental health services.

House Bill 5104
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY LYME DISEASE TESTING.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To establish a task force to study Lyme disease testing.

Medical Malpractice

Senate Bill 452
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAP ON THE AWARD OF NONECONOMIC DAMAGES IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To limit the award of noneconomic damages in medical malpractice claims.

Senate Bill 451
AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF BINDING ARBITRATION IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTIONS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To implement the use of binding arbitration in medical malpractice actions.

Senate Bill 450
AN ACT CONCERNING REFORM OF THE CERTIFICATE OF MERIT REQUIREMENTS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To reform the certificate of merit requirements in medical malpractice cases.

Senate Bill 449
AN ACT REQUIRING THE SUBMISSION OF ALL MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS TO ARBITRATION PANELS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To encourage pretrial settlement of medical malpractice claims.

Senate Bill 446
AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND TORT REFORM.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To reduce the burden on health insurance by reducing the number of health insurance mandates and reforming medical malpractice liability.

House Bill 5229
AN ACT CONCERNING AWARDS OF NONECONOMIC DAMAGES IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTIONS.
Jan 11, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To limit awards of noneconomic damages in medical malpractice actions.

House Bill 5270
AN ACT ESTABLISHING PEER REVIEW PANELS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTIONS.
Jan 14, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To establish a peer review process for claims of alleged negligence by a health care provider.

House Bill 5318
AN ACT CONCERNING NONECONOMIC DAMAGES AWARDS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTIONS.
Jan 16, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To limit noneconomic damages awards in medical malpractice actions.

House Bill 5675
AN ACT REQUIRING PHYSICIANS TO OBTAIN EXPERT WITNESS CERTIFICATION PRIOR TO RENDERING EXPERT OPINION TESTIMONY IN A CONNECTICUT MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTION.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To require physicians who are not licensed in the state to obtain an expert witness certificate from the Department of Public Health prior to rendering expert opinion testimony in a medical malpractice action tried in the state.

House Bill 5675
AN ACT REQUIRING PHYSICIANS TO OBTAIN EXPERT WITNESS CERTIFICATION PRIOR TO RENDERING EXPERT OPINION TESTIMONY IN A CONNECTICUT MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTION.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To require physicians who are not licensed in the state to obtain an expert witness certificate from the Department of Public Health prior to rendering expert opinion testimony in a medical malpractice action tried in the state.

House Bill 5982
AN ACT REQUIRING CERTIFICATION FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WHO PROVIDE EXPERT TESTIMONY IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To increase the level of accountability for physicians who are licensed in another state and who testify in this state as expert witnesses in medical malpractice cases.

House Bill 5987
AN ACT REQUIRING CERTIFICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR CERTAIN EXPERT WITNESSES IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To require expert witnesses in medical malpractice cases to be certified by the Department of Public Health.

Mandatory Flu Immunizations

House Bill 5536
AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH CARE EMPLOYEES TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST INFLUENZA.
Jan 22, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To prevent the spread of influenza by requiring health care employees to be vaccinated.

House Bill 5539
AN ACT CONCERNING INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATIONS FOR EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS.
Jan 22, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To increase the influenza immunization rates and reduce the incidents of influenza in nursing home settings because the most effective way to reach this objective is to vaccinate staff and licensed individual practitioners.

Senate Bill 55
AN ACT PROHIBITING EMPLOYERS FROM REQUIRING EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE MANDATORY FLU SHOTS.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Labor and Public Employees Committee
PURPOSE To prevent employers from mandating that their employees receive flu vaccines as a condition of their employment.

Other Issues

Senate Bill 467
AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF VACCINES BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To allow the free choice of vaccines purchased by medical professionals.

Senate Bill 387
AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE.
Jan 24, 2013 **Public Hearing** scheduled in Labor and Public Employees Committee for Jan 31
PURPOSE To raise the minimum wage and base future raises on the consumer price index.

Senate Bill 376
AN ACT CONCERNING THE PHYSICIAN LICENSE RENEWAL FEE FOR MEDICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To create an incentive for physicians to join a medical society.

Senate Bill 372
AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT CARE AND CONTRACT DISPUTES BETWEEN HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To ensure contract disputes between health care facilities and health insurance providers do not impact the care of policyholders.

Senate Bill 362
AN ACT EXPANDING THE PHYSICIAN LICENSE FEE WAIVER TO RETIRED PHYSICIANS WHO PROVIDE SERVICES AT NO COST.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee

PURPOSE To remove financial impediments for retired physicians who perform pro bono work.

House Bill 5105
AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND VACCINATIONS.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To repeal the requirement that health care providers receive vaccinations through the Department of Public Health.

House Bill 5276
AN ACT CONCERNING A PENALTY FOR OPTOMETRISTS AND PHYSICIANS WHO FAIL TO REPORT INFORMATION CONCERNING BLIND PATIENTS.
Jan 14, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To establish a penalty for optometrists and physicians who do not follow the mandatory requirement of reporting blind persons in accordance with section 10-305 of the general statutes.

House Bill 5348
AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION FOR PERSONS WHO DECONTAMINATE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.
Feb 01, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To reduce the number of persons effected by cross-contamination and infection in surgical settings.

House Bill 5376
AN ACT PROHIBITING PHYSICIANS FROM OWNING BUSINESSES THAT PROVIDE PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES.
Jan 17, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To prevent a conflict of interest by restricting physicians from owning a physical therapy business.

House Bill 5521
AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARD OF NONECONOMIC DAMAGES IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ACTIONS.
Jan 22, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To limit noneconomic damages awards in medical malpractice cases

Senate Bill 97
AN ACT EXTENDING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES.
Jan 10, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To protect bona fide claims in medical malpractice cases by extending the applicable statute of limitations.

***House Bill 5727**

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIME FOR PARENTAL NOTIFICATION WHEN A CHILD IS ADMITTED TO A HOSPITAL FOR DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT OF A MENTAL DISORDER.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To change the time for a hospital's notification of a parent when a child is admitted to the hospital for diagnosis or treatment of a mental disorder from not later than five days after the child's admission to not later than one day after the child's admission.

House Bill 5736
AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION COURSE REQUIREMENTS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To ensure physicians who have successfully completed a required continuing medical education course do not have to repeat the course.

House Bill 5978
AN ACT PROHIBITING PATIENT INTERVIEWS IN COMMON AREAS OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To protect the privacy of patients in hospitals and other health care facilities.

House Bill 5998
AN ACT REQUIRING CERTIFICATION FOR TECHNICIANS WHO DECONTAMINATE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To require certification for technicians who decontaminate surgical instruments in order to reduce hospital-acquired infections.

House Bill 6158
AN ACT CONCERNING VACCINE DISTRIBUTION.
Jan 25, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To allow physicians and other health care providers to opt out of the mandatory state vaccine procurement program and have the choice of where to obtain childhood vaccine, including the private market.

House Bill 6239
AN ACT REQUIRING THE TRAINING OF HEALTH CARE EMPLOYEES CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL HIPAA LEGISLATION.
Jan 28, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To protect patients' confidential health information.

House Bill 6240
AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR PHYSICIANS.
Jan 28, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To make continuing medical education relevant and pertinent to the medical profession.

House Bill 5995
AN ACT CONCERNING THE COST TO TRANSFER MEDICAL RECORDS TO A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To protect patients from excessive charges for the provision of their medical records to another health care provider.

Senate Bill 64
AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE TO PATIENTS OF THE COST TO COPY OR TRANSFER MEDICAL RECORDS.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To prevent patients from incurring hidden charges for the necessary transfer of medical records while allowing health care providers to charge an appropriate amount for the service.

Senate Bill 151
AN ACT INCREASING THE VALUE OF ITEMS ALLOWED TO BE SOLD TAX-FREE BY CERTAIN NONPROFIT GROUPS AND SCHOOLS.
Jan 16, 2013 Referred to Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
PURPOSE To relieve the administrative burden on nonprofit groups and schools.

Senate Bill 159
AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYEE PRIVACY.
Jan 16, 2013 Referred to Labor and Public Employees Committee
PURPOSE To protect employee privacy by barring employers or potential employers from requiring employees to provide passwords to their personal accounts as a condition of employment.

Senate Bill 168
AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSE PARTIES HOSTED BY STATE CONTRACTORS.
Jan 17, 2013 Referred to Government Administration and Elections Committee
PURPOSE To prohibit state contractors from hosting campaign fundraising house parties.

Senate Bill 179
AN ACT CONCERNING PAID SICK LEAVE AND ITS EFFECTS ON STATE BUSINESSES.
Jan 17, 2013 Referred to Labor and Public Employees Committee
PURPOSE To improve the state business climate by eliminating the statutory requirement that employers compensate their employees for sick time.

Senate Bill 180
AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF THE LICENSE RENEWAL FEE WAIVER FOR CERTAIN RETIRED PHYSICIANS.
Jan 17, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To expand the license renewal fee exemption for doctors who volunteer their time.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES/HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

Senate Bill 596
AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE.
Jan 25, 2013 **Public Hearing** in Insurance and Real Estate Committee scheduled for Jan 31
PURPOSE To direct the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange to actively negotiate, on behalf of consumers, health insurance premiums with insurers for qualified health plans offered through the exchange.

Senate Bill 445
AN ACT CONCERNING PREEXISTING CONDITIONS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To prohibit the use of a preexisting condition as a reason to deny health insurance coverage.

Senate Bill 375
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To establish a task force to study the public health delivery system.

Senate Bill 368
AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO REPORT ON LYME DISEASE AND OTHER TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To ensure the state identifies and implements best practices with regard to Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses.

Senate Bill 361
AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL DEVICES, EQUIPMENT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To foster competition in the medical field by easing certificate of need requirements.

Senate Bill 340
AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION PROCESS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To simplify and modernize the prior authorization process for health care providers and insureds.
Senate Bill 339
AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHARTER OAK HEALTH PLAN.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Human Services Committee

PURPOSE To specify that the Charter Oak Health Plan established pursuant to section 17b-311 of the general statutes is a health program offered by the state and not an insurance plan so participants are not required to wait an additional six months after terminating such plan before being eligible to join the high risk health insurance pool program established pursuant to Section 1101 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148.

Senate Bill 29
AN ACT DECREASING THE TIME FRAME FOR UTILIZATION REVIEW AND BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS BY HEALTH CARRIERS FOR URGENT CARE REQUESTS.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To decrease the time for utilization review and benefit determinations by a health carrier for urgent care requests from seventy-two hours to twenty-four hours.

Senate Bill 30
AN ACT CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CLINICAL PEERS FOR ADVERSE DETERMINATION REVIEWS.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To require clinical peers with whom health insurers and utilization review companies contract have the same qualifications as "similar health care providers, as defined in section 52-184c of the general statutes.

Senate Bill 60
AN ACT CONCERNING A SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To create a unified health care system and reduce the cost of health care and health care coverage.

Senate Bill 75
AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE.
Jan 10, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To direct the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange to actively negotiate, on behalf of consumers, health insurance premiums with insurers for qualified health plans offered through the exchange.

Senate Bill 28
AN ACT CONCERNING DISPENSATION AND INSURANCE COVERAGE OF A PRESCRIBED DRUG DURING REVIEW OF AN ADVERSE DETERMINATION OR A FINAL ADVERSE DETERMINATION.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To require dispensation and coverage of a prescribed drug for an insured for the duration of any grievance or review filed or requested by such insured of an adverse determination or a final adverse determination.

Senate Bill 130
AN ACT REDUCING EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE FEES FOR NURSES.

Jan 11, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To reduce the cost of nursing exams and licensure fees by fifty per cent.

Senate Bill 219
AN ACT CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR CRIMES INVOLVING THE ABUSE OF A MINOR CHILD.
Jan 22, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To better protect the state's children by increasing the criminal penalties for felonious abuse of a minor child.

Senate Bill 652
AN ACT CONCERNING REFERRALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO THE BIRTH TO THREE PROGRAM.
Jan 25, 2013 Referred to Children Committee
PURPOSE To pilot an automatic referral process from the Department of Children and Families to the birth-to-three program.

House Bill 5069
AN ACT REDUCING HEALTH CARE FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Human Services Committee
PURPOSE To reduce health care program fraud, waste and abuse by adopting prepayment fraud detection technologies.

House Bill 5107
AN ACT REQUIRING THE TRAINING OF HEALTH CARE EMPLOYEES CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL HIPPA LEGISLATION.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To protect patients' confidential health information.

House Bill 5110
AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF A UNIVERSAL CHILD HEALTH FORM.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To streamline and centralize a child's health information through the use of universal child health forms.

House Bill 5275
AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING TO JOIN THE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT.
Jan 14, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To expand employment opportunities for nurses by requiring that the state join the Nurse Licensure Compact.

House Bill 5316
AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEDICALLY NEEDY INCOME LIMIT FOR MEDICAID COVERAGE.

Jan 16, 2013 Referred to Human Services Committee
PURPOSE To allow medically-needy individuals the option of making payments to the state in order to meet income eligibility guidelines for Medicaid coverage.

House Bill 5442
AN ACT ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT THAT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS OBTAIN VACCINATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.
Jan 18, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To repeal the requirement that health care providers receive vaccinations through the Department of Public Health.

House Bill 5445
AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATES OF NEED FOR PEDCAT IMAGING EQUIPMENT.
Jan 18, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To allow physicians to access pedCAT imaging equipment at a lower cost, which would benefit patients.

House Bill 5538
AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CARE CENTERS.
Jan 22, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To improve health outcomes for students which will lead to improvement in their learning experiences.

House Bill 5643
AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN MEDICAL FORMS AND ELECTRONIC ACCESS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Insurance and Real Estate Committee
PURPOSE To simplify and modernize the prior authorization process for health care providers and insureds.

House Bill 5726
AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENTS' ONLINE ACCESS TO MEDICAL TEST RESULTS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To allow online access to medical test results by patients.

House Bill 5733
AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO A CHILD'S DEATH CERTIFICATE.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To protect the privacy of families following the death of a child.

House Bill 5737

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PATIENT HEALTH CARE INFORMATION IN THE ALL-PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE PROGRAM.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To protect patient privacy by allowing patients to refuse the use of their health care information as part of the all-payer claims database program.

House Bill 5745
AN ACT CONCERNING DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH OVERSIGHT OVER GIFTS PROVIDED BY THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To provide full disclosure to state residents concerning the relationship between health care providers and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry.

House Bill 5939
AN ACT CONCERNING COMPLAINTS PENDING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AGAINST PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To provide more transparency concerning complaints filed against physicians and other health care providers.

House Bill 5941
AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS WITH LICENSED PHYSICIANS AND PODIATRISTS AS ITS SHAREHOLDERS.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Judiciary Committee
PURPOSE To permit the establishment of a professional corporation that has licensed physicians and podiatrists as its shareholders.

House Bill 5977
AN ACT REQUIRING PROMPT DISCLOSURE OF CHILDREN'S MEDICAL TEST RESULTS TO PARENTS.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To require health care professionals to share blood and lab test results with parents as soon as the results are available and to require that a physician is present when the results are shared to assess the findings.

House Bill 6000
AN ACT CONCERNING COMPLAINTS ABOUT PATIENT CARE IN HOSPITALS.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Public Health Committee
PURPOSE To require hospitals to provide contact information for hospital staff who will receive complaints from patients.

GENERAL STATE FINANCE

Senate Bill 574
AN ACT CONCERNING AN EXEMPTION FROM THE SALES TAX FOR NONPRESCRIPTION DRUGS.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
PURPOSE To exempt over-the-counter drugs from the sales tax.

Senate Bill 569
AN ACT CONCERNING AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
PURPOSE To allow an income tax deduction for medical expenses and deductibles.

Senate Bill 421
AN ACT CONCERNING A TAX CREDIT FOR ORGAN DONORS.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
PURPOSE To provide an incentive for organ donors by providing a tax credit on the income tax.

Senate Bill 269
AN ACT REQUIRING THE FULL FUNDING OF PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.
Jan 23, 2013 Referred to Appropriations Committee
PURPOSE To require full funding of PILOT programs.

House Bill 5866
AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING OF THE STATE GRANTS IN LIEU OF PROPERTY TAX.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
PURPOSE To compensate host municipalities for tax loss from state, college and hospital property.

House Bill 5858
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX ON CERTAIN BEVERAGES AND FOODS.
Jan 24, 2013 Referred to Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
PURPOSE To encourage healthy eating, improve health outcomes and enhance funding to local health and nutrition programs.

House Bill 5001
AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR PAYMENTS TO TOWNS IN LIEU OF TAXES ON REAL PROPERTY OF PRIVATE COLLEGES, GENERAL HOSPITALS, CHRONIC DISEASE HOSPITALS AND CERTAIN URGENT CARE FACILITIES.
Jan 09, 2013 Referred to Appropriations Committee
PURPOSE To fully fund payments in lieu of taxes to towns in which private colleges, general hospitals, chronic disease hospitals and certain urgent care facilities are located.