

PA 11-122

HB6356

House	3118-3125	8
Human Services	252, 253-254, 482, 483	5
<u>Senate</u>	<u>6549, 6573-6578</u>	<u>7</u>
		<b>20</b>

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**HUMAN  
SERVICES  
PART 1  
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**2011  
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mrc HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 1, 2011  
11:00 A.M.

was more specific than just who's incarcerated or who had pending charges. There was a lot more information just about legal involvement, which wouldn't be cross-walked over with the DSC system. That was -- we had to hand get that data. We couldn't keep that in our own records because we don't have the capability to do that.

REP. TERCYAK: Thank you very much. Than you.

Okay. Next up, Commissioner Michael Starkowski from the Connecticut Department of Social Services. Welcome back.

MICHAEL P. STARKOWSKI: I have a series of bills that I'm going to testify on today. My written testimony has been submitted. I'll try to make my remarks a little bit shorter than the written testimony so you can move through it.

<u>HB6357</u>	<u>HB6356</u>
<u>HB5429</u>	<u>HB5895</u>
<u>HB5893</u>	<u>HB5757</u>
<u>HB5434</u>	<u>SB296</u>
<u>SB1042</u>	<u>HB6358</u>
<u>HB6361</u>	<u>HB6360</u>

Good morning, Representative Tercyak and Senator Musto and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Michael Starkowski. I'm the Commission of the Department of Social Services. I'm going to walk through some of the bills today, as I just said.

On Senate Bill 1041, AN ACT REPEALING A STATUTE CONCERNING FEDERAL AID FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF, the individual family and grant program regulations, which were originally drafted by DSS pursuant to federal law have since been amended by both the fed's and the state government. The state law now transfers the responsibility for the federal assistance for and individual or family disaster-related expenses to the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

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Since it's been transferred to DMHAS, this is a correction to repeal so DSS is not responsible and there's not conflicts with the state law.

H.B. 6357, AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS UNDER THE MEDICAID ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD INCENTIVE PROGRAM, the bill would provide eligible providers and hospitals the right to request an administrative hearing under Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes to contest an adverse action in the Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Payment Program.

ARRA requires -- ARRA meaning the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requires that aggrieved providers wishing to contest an adverse action under this program be given the opportunity for a full administrative hearing. However, the state law, Connecticut state law, requires that the right to full administrative hearings under Chapter 54 be granted in statute.

This proposal grants those providers that right and brings the Connecticut statutes in line with federal law.

Just as a sideline, that program has the potential to bring in about \$100 million in federal money to providers over the next five years.

On H.B. 6356, AN ACT CONCERNING A CLARIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES' REQUIREMENT TO GIVE NOTICE REGARDING REPAYMENT OF SERVICES, as required in PA 10 dash 183, the Department is required to provide notice to any individual who may be liable to repay public assistance benefits provided to someone that the individual has a

legal liability to support at the time of the application or within 30 days of the benefits being granted. The proposed language clarifies that the Department is also required to provide notification with 30 days of the date that any other liable individual is identified.

Thank you for raising the bills on behalf of the Department, and we request your support.

On proposed Bill H.B. 5429, AN ACT CONCERNING AVAILABILITY OF MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE TO PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR THE QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES, this actually provides another benefit for the individuals that are on the QMB programs. We have somewhere in the range of about 109,000 right now in the state of Connecticut that are on those programs. It allows them to purchase supplemental insurance or change from one type of Medicare supplement to another.

We support this bill as it would benefit the clients that we're trying to serve.

Proposed Bill H.B. 5895, AN ACT CONCERNING HUSKY ELIGIBILITY DURING THE TIMES OF UNEMPLOYMENT, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, this bill would require the Commissioner of Social Services to continue to provide benefits under the HUSKY program to each person receiving such benefits regardless of whether the recipient exceeds the income eligibility level until the state's unemployment rate is below 7 and a half percent for a period of six months.

This bill would require a significant amount of funds for which we would not receive federal match. In addition, funding for this expansion is not included in the Governor's proposed biennial budget.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**HUMAN  
SERVICES  
PART 2  
315 – 623**

**2011**



*Testimony before the Human Services Committee*

*Commissioner Michael P. Starkowski*

*March 1, 2011*

HB6356 HB5429  
HB5895 HB5893  
HB5757 HB5434  
SB296 SB1042  
HB6358 HB6361  
HB6360

Good morning, Senator Musto and Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services Committee. I am pleased to be here this morning to present testimony on legislation introduced at the request of the department and would like to thank the Committee for raising these bills. In addition, I am providing testimony on several other bills that impact the department.

**Bills raised at the request of the Department:**

**S.B. No. 1041 (RAISED) AN ACT REPEALING A STATUTE CONCERNING FEDERAL AID FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF.**

The Individual and Family Grant program regulations, which were originally drafted by DSS pursuant to federal law (section 411 of Public Law 100-707), have since been amended by both federal and state law. CGS 28-9d transfers the responsibility for the federal assistance for individual or family disaster-related expenses to Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

The department has requested that this statute (17b-13), therefore, be repealed, so as not to present any possible conflicts with state law.

**H.B. No. 6357 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS UNDER THE MEDICAID ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

This bill would provide eligible providers and hospitals the right to request an administrative hearing under chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes to contest an adverse action in the Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Payment Program.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requires that aggrieved providers wishing to contest an adverse action under the Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Payment Program be given the opportunity for a full administrative hearing. However, Connecticut law requires that the right to full administrative hearings under chapter 54 be granted in statute. This proposal grants providers that right and brings Connecticut in line with federal law.

**H.B. No. 6356 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A CLARIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES' REQUIREMENT TO GIVE NOTICE REGARDING REPAYMENT OF SERVICES.**

As required by PA 10-183, the department is required to provide notice to any individual who may be liable to repay public assistance benefits provided to someone that the individual has a legal liability to support at the time of application or within 30 days of benefits being granted. The proposed language clarifies that the department is also required to provide notification within 30 days of the date that any other liable individual is identified.

I thank you for raising these proposals on behalf of the department and I request your favorable action on these bills.

**Bills with DSS Impact:**

**Proposed H.B. 5429 AN ACT CONCERNING AVAILABILITY OF MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE TO PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR THE QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PROGRAM.**

The purpose of this bill is to allow persons eligible for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program to also purchase a supplement insurance policy or change from one type of Medicare supplement insurance to another.

We support this proposal and believe that it would benefit recipients by expanding access to more providers.

**Proposed H.B. No. 5895 AN ACT CONCERNING HUSKY ELIGIBILITY DURING TIMES OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.**

This bill would require the Commissioner of Social Services to continue to provide benefits under the HUSKY program to each person receiving such benefits, regardless of whether the recipient exceeds the income eligibility level until the state's unemployment rate is below 7 ½ percent for a period of six months.

This bill would require a significant amount of state funds, for which we would not receive federal match. In addition, funding for this expansion is not included in the Governor's proposed biennial budget. As a result, we cannot support this bill.

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2011**

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PART 10  
3113 - 3437**

If all Members have voted, the machine will be locked. Would the Clerk please take a tally.

Would the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On House Bill 6455 as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting	137
Necessary for Passage	69
Those voting Yea	137
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	14

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The Bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 118.

THE CLERK:

On Page 7, Calendar 118, House Bill Number 6356

AN ACT CONCERNING A CLARIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES REQUIREMENT TO GIVE NOTICE REGARDING REPAYMENT OF SERVICE. Favorable Report of the Committee on Human Services.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morris of the 118th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Good afternoon.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's  
Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance and  
passage of the Bill. Please proceed, sir.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

This Bill is given at the request of the  
Department of Social Services. The Bill before us is  
meant to clarify the timeframe for the Department of  
Social Services of notifying persons who are  
responsible for repaying public assistance benefits.

The Department is required to provide notice to  
any individual who may be liable to repay public  
assistance benefits provided through someone that the  
individual has a legal liability to support at the  
time of application or within 30 days of benefits  
being granted.

The proposed language clarifies that the  
Department is also required to provide notification  
within 30 days of the date that any other liable  
individual is identified.

We thank the Ranking Member Lile Gibbons for her participation, input and passage, and I move passage of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is passage of the Bill. Representative Gibbons of the 150th, you have the floor, madam.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may, please, through you, a question to the proponent of the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, one of the questions we had when we discussed this Bill in Committee was, what if the Department of Social Services could not locate the third party individual who was supposed to be responsible for the bills, or could be responsible for the bills. If that person could not be located within 30 days, what is the outcome of that quest then, please?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morris.

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REP. MORRIS (140th):

We do certify mail so the person is still liable.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you. Through you again, Mr. Speaker. If the person cannot be located or if the certified mail is returned, does that disoblige the third party person from paying back any bills in the future, please?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morris.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, no it does not unobligate that person. Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, again. So just to clarify. If there is a third party individual who has, I think this most often happens with a spouse, who is now an ex-spouse

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but still might be legally liable for the bills of a child that is being brought up.

If that child is a minor and the bills do accumulate and they need to be paid at some point, then it is up to the ex-spouse or the ex-parent to remember that those bills are still due and he or she must, is obligated to pay for them. Is that correct, please?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Morris.

REP. MORRIS (140th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, that is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

And Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, and I thank the Representative for his clarification.

This is really just an addendum to the Bill that we passed last year. I believe the Bill is a good Bill and I urge support of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, Representative Gibbons. Further on the Bill? From the Silver City, Representative Abercrombie, you have the floor, madam.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Bill. This is a bill that came through Human Services last year and we adopted this Bill.

But what this does this year is tighten up the regs to 30 days, which I think is good. This came from a parent who the father was on the child's birth certificate, paid child support all through the years, went to refinance his house and found out there was a lien against it because of some services the person, the mother of his child had gotten through the state, was never notified of this.

So this is a good Bill and I hope that the Chamber will also vote in favor of it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Thank you, madam. Further on the Bill? Further on the Bill? If not, staff and guests please retire to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

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THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll  
Call. Members to the Chamber.

The House is taking a Roll Call vote. Members to  
the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Have all Members voted? Have all Members voted?  
Please check the board to make sure your vote is  
properly cast.

If all Members have voted, the machine will be  
locked. Representative Godfrey of the 110th, sir, you  
have the floor.

REP. GODFREY (110th):

In the affirmative, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Godfrey in the affirmative.  
Further? further? Would the Clerk please announce the  
tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6356.

Total Number Voting	141
Necessary for Passage	71
Those voting Yea	141
Those voting Nay	0

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May 17, 2011

Those absent and not voting 10

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The Bill passes.

Representative Johnson of the 49th.

Would the Clerk please call Calendar 88.

THE CLERK:

On Page 43, Calendar 88, Substitute for House  
Bill Number 6472 AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE  
COVERAGE FOR OSTOMY SUPPLIES. Favorable Report of the  
Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

Representative Johnson of the 49th, you have the  
floor.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for acceptance of  
the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of  
the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ALTOBELLO:

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of  
the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of  
the Bill. Please proceed, madam.

REP. MOHNSON (49th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason for the Bill  
is that since 2000 there has been a law that has

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SENATE

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So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Ah, thank you, Madam President.

Moving to calendar page 13, Calendar 511, House  
Bill Number 6356.

Madam President, move to place the item on the  
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Continuing calendar page 13, Calendar 512,  
House Bill Number 6422.

Madam President, move to place this item on the  
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Continuing on calendar page 13, Calendar 514,  
House Bill Number 6590.

Madam President, move to place the item on the  
Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

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Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call's been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call's been ordered in the Senate on the Consent Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the Chamber.

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the items placed...

THE CHAIR:

I would ask the Chamber to be quiet please so we can hear the call of the Calendar for the Consent Calendar.

Thank you.

Please proceed, Mr. Clerk

THE CLERK:

Madam President, the items placed on the first Consent Calendar begin on calendar page 5, Calendar 336, House Bill 5697.

Calendar page 7, Calendar 421, Substitute for House Bill 6126.

Calendar page 8, Calendar 449, Senate Bill 1149.

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Calendar page 10, Calendar 470, Substitute for House Bill 5340. Calendar 474, Substitute for House Bill 6274. Calendar 476, House Bill 6635.

Calendar page 12, Calendar 499, Substitute for House Bill 6638. Calendar 500, House Bill 6614. Calendar 508, House Bill 6222.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 511, House Bill 6356. Calendar 512, Substitute for House Bill 6422. Calendar 514, House Bill 6590. Calendar 515, House Bill 6221. Calendar 516, House Bill 6455.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 517, House Bill 6350. Calendar 519, House Bill 5437. Calendar 522, House Bill 6303.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 523, Substitute for House Bill 6499. Calendar 524, House Bill 6490. Calendar 525, House Bill 5780. Calendar 526, House Bill 6513. Calendar 527, Substitute for House Bill 6532.

Calendar page 16, Calendar 528, House Bill 6561. Calendar 529, Substitute for House Bill 6312. Calendar 530, Substitute for House Bill 5032. Calendar 532, House Bill 6338.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 533, Substitute for House Bill 6325. Calendar 534, House Bill 6352.

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Calendar 536, House Bill 5300. Calendar 537, House  
Bill 5482.

calendar page 18, Calendar 543, House Bill 6508.

Calendar 544, House Bill 6412. Calendar 546,  
Substitute for House Bill 6538. Calendar 547,  
Substitute for House Bill 6440. Calendar 548,  
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Calendar page 19, Calendar 550, Substitute for  
House Bill 5802. Calendar 551, House Bill 6433.  
Calendar 552, House Bill 6413. Calendar 553,  
Substitute for House Bill 6227.

Calendar page 20, Calendar 554, Substitute for  
House Bill 5415. Calendar 557, Substitute for House  
Bill 6318. Calendar 558, Substitute for House Bill  
6565.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 559, Substitute for  
House Bill 6636.

Calendar page 22, Calendar 563, Substitute for  
House Bill 6600. Calendar 564, Substitute for House  
Bill 6598. Calendar 566, House Bill 5585.

Calendar page 23, Calendar 568, Substitute for  
House Bill 6103. Calendar 570, Substitute for House  
Bill 6336. Calendar 573, Substitute for House Bill  
6434.

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Calendar page 24, Calendar 577, Substitute for  
House Bill 5795.

Calendar page 25, Calendar 581, House Bill  
6354.

Calendar page 26, Calendar 596, Substitute for  
House Bill 6282. Calendar 598, Substitute for House  
Bill 6629.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 600, House Bill  
6314. Calendar 601, Substitute for House Bill 6529.  
Calendar 602, Substitute for House Bill 6438.  
Calendar 604, Substitute for House Bill 6639.

Calendar page 28, Calendar 605, Substitute for  
House Bill 6526. Calendar 608, House Bill 6284.

Calendar page 30, Calendar number 615,  
Substitute for House Bill 6485. Calendar 616,  
Substitute for House Bill 6498.

Calendar page 31, Calendar 619, Substitute for  
House Bill 6634. Calendar 627, Substitute for House  
Bill 6596.

Calendar page 32, Calendar 629, House Bill  
5634. Calendar 630, Substitute for House Bill 6631.  
Calendar 631, Substitute for House Bill 6357.  
Calendar 632, House Bill 6642.

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Calendar page 33, Calendar 634, Substitute for  
House Bill 5431. Calendar 636, Substitute for  
House, correction, House Bill 6100.

Page 34, Calendar 638, Substitute for House  
Bill 6525.

Calendar page 48, Calendar 399, Substitute for  
Senate Bill 1043.

Calendar page 49, Calendar 409, Substitute for  
House Bill 6233. Calendar 412, House Bill 5178.  
Calendar 422, Substitute for House Bill 6448.

Calendar page 52, Calendar 521, Substitute for  
House Bill 6113.

Madam President, that completes the item placed  
on the first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, sir.

We call for another roll call vote. And the  
machine will be open for Consent Calendar number 1.

THE CLERK:

The Senate is now voting by roll on the Consent  
Calendar. Will all Senators please return to the  
Chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll on the  
Consent Calendar, will all Senators please return to  
the Chamber.

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SENATE

525  
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Senator Cassano, would you vote, please, sir.

Thank you.

Well, all members have voted. All members have voted. The machine will be closed, and Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally?

THE CLERK:

Motion is on option Consent Calendar Number 1.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 1 has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

We might stand at ease for just a moment as we prepare the next item..

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)