



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Proposed Bill No. 5321

LCO No. 273



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
REP. HUGHES, 135th Dist.

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE FOR
BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE COVERAGE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 That title 17a of the general statutes be amended to establish the
2 Ombudsman's Office for Behavioral Healthcare, modeled on the Office
3 of the Healthcare Advocate, to expand behavioral health care coverage
4 by (1) recommending to state Medicaid and private insurance regulators
5 structural and accountability guidelines to ensure a fair and equitable
6 private and public insurance reimbursement system for small and
7 group behavioral health care providers, (2) investigating and resolving
8 reimbursement-related barriers and other obstacles that impede
9 provision of care by such providers, and (3) making public policy
10 recommendations to expand behavioral health care opportunities for all
11 persons regardless of type of insurance coverage.

Statement of Purpose:

To expand access to behavioral health care by establishing a state ombudsman's office to reduce private and public insurance reimbursement barriers for small and group health care providers.