

Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association Bill Tracking 2025

At ConnOTA, we're closely monitoring bills that could impact the occupational therapy profession in Connecticut. The bills listed aren't in any specific order, and our Government Affairs team is working hand-in-hand with our lobbyist, Andy Markowski from Statehouse Partners LLC, to stay on top of any legislation that may affect us. Advocacy is a powerful way to protect and advance our profession, and we need your voice! If you're interested in learning more about how to get involved, support, or oppose a bill, we're here to guide you. And if you know of any legislation that should be on our radar but isn't listed here, please let us know – your involvement is key to making a difference!

Stay updated on the latest bill activity by using the quick bill search tool here: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillInfo/CGABillInfoRequest.asp>
For more information or to get involved, feel free to reach out to us at govaffairs@connota.org

Licensing & Professional Regulation

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
SB 1052	An Act Concerning the Scope of Practice of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants	Sen Henri Martin, 31st District	1/22/2025	Updates and modernizes the scope of practice for occupational therapists and OT assistants.	Directly impacts OT practitioners by clarifying and expanding professional roles.
HB 5165	An Act Requiring Payment of Certain Personal Property Taxes as a Precondition to Professional and Occupational License Renewals	Rep Craig C Fishbein, 90th District	1/14/2025	Requires professionals to pay outstanding personal property taxes before renewing occupational licenses.	Could create barriers to license renewal for OT practitioners.
SB 1072	An Act Requiring the Licensure of Recreational Therapists by the Department of Public Health	Sen Gary A Winfield, 10th District	1/22/2025	Requires recreational therapists to be licensed by the Department of Public Health.	May impact collaboration and role differentiation between OTs and recreational therapists.
SB1246	An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget	Request of the Governor Pursuant to Joint Rule 9	2/5/2025	To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.	To waive license fees for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants

Payment Parity & Reimbursement

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
HB 6975	An Act Requiring a Biennial Study of Payment Parity for Services Under Certain Individual and Group Health Insurance Policies in the State and the Husky Health Program	Public Health Committee	2/14/2025	Requires a biennial study evaluating payment parity between mental health and general health providers under certain insurance policies and the HUSKY Health program, with findings reported to the General Assembly starting January 1, 2026.	Payment parity affects reimbursement for OT services and access to care.
SB 824	An Act Requiring Behavioral Health Parity	Sen Ceci Maher, 26th District	1/21/2025	Mandates equal insurance coverage for behavioral health services and medical/surgical care.	Ensures fair reimbursement rates for OT mental health services.
SB 819	An Act Requiring Site-Neutral Reimbursements for Certain Covered Health Insurance Benefits	Sen Martin M Looney, 11th District	1/21/2025	Requires site-neutral reimbursements for certain health insurance benefits to ensure payment consistency regardless of facility ownership.	Impacts OT reimbursement structures and service settings.
HB 7039	An Act Concerning Health Insurance	Insurance & Real Estate Committee	2/19/2025	To: (1) Prohibit health carriers from retroactively denying or recouping payment of health insurance claims paid to health care providers for mental health and substance use disorder benefits after two years from the date of service and when such health carrier fails to provide notice to such health care provider; (2) require that the Insurance Commissioner study insurance coverage requirements for health care services provided through telehealth to evaluate methods to ensure that residents of this state who are out of state for the purpose of attending an institution of higher learning receive such coverage for such services; (3) require that the Insurance Commissioner study dental provider reimbursement rate practices in this state as compared to other states to assess flexibility in reimbursement rate negotiations; (4) require that individual and group health insurance policies provide coverage for medical foods for individuals diagnosed with phenylketonuria; (5) require that individual and group health insurance	This bill includes multiple provisions affecting healthcare, such as telehealth, reimbursement practices, mental health coverage, and insurance claim denials. ConnOTA would advocate for policies that support fair compensation for OT services and equitable access for clients.

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				policies (A) provide coverage for motorized wheelchairs and repairs to and replacement batteries for motorized wheelchairs, and (B) establish centralized locations for the collection of used motorized wheelchairs; (6) prohibit health carriers from recovering through health insurance premiums such health carriers' costs associated with lobbying or legislative action in this state; (7) require the Insurance Commissioner to study certain compensation practices for health care services provided by pharmacists licensed in this state; and (8) revise the definition of "clinical peer" with respect to utilization review of health care services and treatment.	

Medicaid & Insurance Coverage

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
HB 7109	An Act Concerning Medicaid Coverage for Applied Behavior Analysis Services and Implementing Certain Recommendations of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee	Human Services Committee	2/27/2025	Expands Medicaid coverage for applied behavior analysis (ABA) services, enhances community-based services, and improves behavioral health models.	Medicaid coverage policies can influence OT service provision and reimbursement.
HB 5366	An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Mental Health Services Provided Through Telehealth	Multiple Sponsors	1/16/2025	Ensures coverage for mental health services provided via telehealth to residents temporarily out of state.	Supports expanded access to OT mental health services via telehealth.
HB 6871	An Act Limiting Out-Of-Network Health Care Costs	Request of the Governor Pursuant to Joint Rule 9	3/11/2025	To implement the Governor's budget recommendations. Limits the total out-of-network cost assessed by any health care provider for an inpatient or outpatient hospital service furnished to a person covered by a health benefit plan with whole the provider does not participate to 240% of the Medicare rate. Requires hospital to provide data to OHS to assist in monitoring compliance.	This bill could impact reimbursement for occupational therapy services provided out-of-network, potentially affecting private practice OTs and access to care for patients.

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
HB 7207	An Act Concerning the Disclosure of Insurer Reports Concerning Mental Health Parity as a Public Record	Government Administration & Elections Committee	3/6/2025	To make reports submitted by insurers to the Insurance Department concerning how the insurers assess the medical necessity of mental health and other benefits a public record for purposes of the Freedom of Information Act.	Ensuring transparency in how insurers assess medical necessity for mental health services is critical. Since OT addresses mental health needs, ConnOTA would track this to advocate for fair coverage and access to services.
SB 392	An Act Prohibiting Health Insurance Companies From Unilaterally Limiting Health Insurance Coverage for Special Needs Children	Sen Jeff Gordon, 35th District	1/9/2025	Prohibits insurance companies from limiting coverage for special needs children, including PT, OT, speech, and feeding therapy services.	Protects OT service access for children with special needs.

Workforce Development & Licensure

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
SB 1073	An Act Authorizing Reciprocal Licensure for Certain Health Care Providers	Sen Ryan Fazio, 36th District & Sen Heather S Somers, 18th District	1/22/2025	Allows healthcare providers licensed in other U.S. regions to practice in Connecticut, improving workforce flexibility.	Affects OT workforce mobility and potential licensure requirements.
SB 723	An Act Concerning Occupational License Interstate Reciprocity for Certain Military-Related Individuals	Multiple Sponsors	1/16/2025	Enables veterans, armed forces members, and their families to have their out-of-state occupational licenses recognized in Connecticut.	Facilitates OT license portability for military-affiliated professionals.
SB 611	An Act Establishing a Maximum Charge for Certain Occupational Licenses, Certifications, Permits and Registrations	General Law Committee	1/15/2025	Limits fees for certain licenses, certifications, permits, and registrations to \$100 per year.	Potential implications for OT licensing fees and regulatory precedent.
SB1450	An Act Concerning Recruitment And Retention Of The Health Care Workforce	Public Health Committee	3/4/2025	To recruit and retain health care providers in the state.	Focuses on healthcare workforce recruitment and retention, which could influence occupational therapy staffing shortages and funding.
SB 576	An Act Requiring the Establishment of the Learn Here, Live Here Program, Increasing the Annual Expenditure on Such Program and Making Such Program Available to Certain Individuals	Commerce Committee	2/19/2025	To: (1) Require the establishment of the Learn Here, Live Here program; (2) increase the annual income tax segregation under such program to not more than five million dollars; and (3) make such program available only to individuals whose annual federal adjusted gross income is not more than seventy-five thousand dollars.	This bill could support workforce development by providing incentives for recent graduates to remain in Connecticut. ConnOTA would want to advocate for its inclusion in healthcare professions, including OT.

Special Education & School Services

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
SB 1467	An Act Requiring a Review of the Costs of Special Education Services Provided by Private Providers	Government Oversight Committee	3/6/2025	Mandates a comprehensive review of tuition rates charged by private special education providers to local/regional boards of education, examining rate increases, oversight mechanisms, and potential inequities.	Impacts funding and service accessibility for school-based OT services.
HB 5001	An Act Concerning the Quality and Delivery of Special Education Services in Connecticut	Education Committee	3/5/2025	To improve the quality and delivery of special education services.	This bill is highly relevant to occupational therapy services in schools, as changes in special education service delivery could affect OT's role, caseloads, and intervention models. ConnOTA would track this to advocate for best practices in school OT.
SB1427	An Act Expanding Paid Family And Medical Leave Insurance Program Benefits To Certain School Employees	Labor and Public Employees Committee	2/26/2025	To expand Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program benefits to employees of a local or regional board of education who do not hold professional certification under chapter 166 of the general statutes and individuals employed by a nonpublic elementary or secondary school who do not hold professional certification under chapter 166 of the general statutes.	Expands paid family leave for certain school employees, potentially affecting occupational therapists employed in schools.
HB 7108	An Act Concerning Autism and Intellectual Disability	Human Services Committee	2/27/2025	Aims to improve services for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities through revised eligibility criteria, enhanced interagency coordination, and increased transparency.	Ensures equitable access to OT services for individuals with autism and ID.

Behavioral Health & Mental Health

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
HB 6397	An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee	Rep Tammy R Exum, 19th District & Sen Ceci Maher, 26th District	1/23/2025	Enhances children's behavioral health services by adjusting Medicaid reimbursement rates, improving insurance coverage, and studying crisis services and school health programs.	Impacts funding and service provision for school-based OT practitioners.
SB 552	An Act Concerning Mental Health Parity	Sen Matthew L Lesser, 9th District	1/14/2025	Establishes penalties for insurance carriers that do not comply with mental health parity laws.	Ensures fair insurance practices affecting OT mental health services.
HB 7157	An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes	Public Health Committee	3/4/2025	Sec. 1 exempts family members from being charged for medical examiner records of a minor. Sec. 2 allows EMTs to use different forms of epinephrine. Sec. 3 mandates two hours of ethics and jurisprudence training for physical therapists. Sec. 4 prohibits requiring bank or credit card information as a condition for office visits. Sec. 5-11 extend privilege and confidentiality to communications between patients and psychiatrists, and psychologists, for legal purposes, outlining when these records can be shared. Sections 12-17 are technical. Sec. 18 increases penalties for certain DPH board violations. Sec. 19 repeals a separate section on psychologist-patient privilege for legal actions.	Several provisions in this bill could impact OTs, particularly those related to medical records access, licensing penalties, and confidentiality in legal cases. ConnOTA would want to ensure that any changes do not negatively affect OT practice or patient access.

Healthcare Access & Telehealth

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
SB 1049	An Act Providing Telehealth Access to State Residents While Out of State	Sen Julie Kushner, 24th District & Rep Aimee Berger-Girvalo, 111th District	1/22/2025	Allows residents to access telehealth services while out of state, ensuring continuous healthcare access.	Supports continued access to OT telehealth services for state residents.
SB 708	An Act Allowing Out-Of-State Telehealth Providers to Provide Telehealth Services to Patients in This State	Multiple Sponsors	1/16/2025	Allows out-of-state telehealth providers to serve in-state patients if they are Medicaid-enrolled or in-network.	Expands OT telehealth service availability and provider access.
SB11	An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Access And Affordability	Human Services Committee; Various Senators	3/5/2025	To increase access to affordable health care.	Addresses prescription drug affordability, which could impact OTs advocating for medication management, mental health, or chronic condition support for their clients.
SB1380	An Act Prohibiting Discrimination By Health Care Providers In The Provision Of Health Care Services In The State	Judiciary Committee	2/21/2025	To prohibit health care providers from discriminating against persons in the provision of health care services in the state.	Prohibits healthcare discrimination, ensuring equitable access to services, which aligns with ConnOTA's advocacy efforts.

Healthcare System Oversight & Mergers

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
HB 6873	An Act Strengthening the Review of Health Care Entity Transactions	Request of the Governor Pursuant to Joint Rule 9	2/5/2025	Governor's bill. Requires additional review of any private equity firm's acquisition of a group practice. Requires additional information be provided to the Attorney General in advance of the acquisition. Gives AG ability to extend his review and request additional information. Creates penalties for failure to provide certain information.	Increased scrutiny on healthcare mergers, particularly involving private equity, could impact access to OT services, especially in private practices and large health systems.

General Healthcare & Policy Revisions

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
SB 1253	An Act Reducing Insurance Rate Premium Requests	Request of the Governor Pursuant to Joint Rule 9		To implement the Governor's budget recommendations. Allows CID to reduce premium rate increase requests by up to 2% if the rate requested in each of the prior two years was above the health care cost growth benchmark. Adds a new metric to consider the actual impact on a consumer's ability to afford health care premiums and costs in the rate review process.	Lowering insurance premium rates could influence overall reimbursement structures and access to OT services. ConnOTA may want to monitor how this bill affects provider payments and affordability for clients.

Workforce Diversity & Education

Bill Number	Title	Introducers	Intro Date	Summary	Why is ConnOTA Tracking?
HB 6331	An Act Prohibiting Use of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Considerations at Public Institutions of Higher Education	Rep Doug Dubitsky, 47th District	1/23/2025	Eliminates DEI offices and considerations in admissions, scholarships, grading, and employment at public higher education institutions.	May impact OT program admissions and workforce diversity efforts.

Healthcare Advocacy & Aging

HB 6912	An Act Establishing An Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Advisory Council	Aging Committee	2/7/2025	To establish an Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Advisory Council.	Occupational therapy plays a key role in supporting individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Tracking this bill allows ConnOTA to advocate for the inclusion of OT expertise on the advisory council and ensure that recommendations consider OT interventions.
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Assistive Technology & Accessibility

HB 7106	An Act Concerning Recommendations of an Advisory Council on Wheelchair Repair	Human Services Committee	2/26/2025	To implement the recommendations of an advisory council on wheelchair repair concerning timely repair of wheelchairs and mobility scooters.	Many OT clients rely on wheelchairs & mobility scooters. This bill could affect timely repairs, which directly impacts client independence & participation in daily activities.
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Home Health & Safety

SB1451	An Act Concerning The Recommendations Of The Working Group To Study Staff Safety Issues Affecting Home Health Care And Home Health Aide Agencies	Public Health Committee	3/4/2025	To implement the recommendations of the working group to study staff safety issues affecting home health care and home health aide agencies.	Addresses staff safety in home healthcare, which may impact OTs working in home settings.
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