



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 192

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 973

Senate, March 29, 2021

The Committee on Aging reported through SEN. MILLER of the 27th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE VOICE OF RESIDENTS AND FAMILY COUNCILS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, (1) "residents council" means a council elected and run by
3 residents of a long-term care facility that brings concerns to
4 management of such facility about residents' living conditions and care,
5 (2) "family council" means a council comprised of family members of
6 residents of long-term care facilities that brings concerns to
7 management of such facility about residents' living conditions and care,
8 and (3) "long-term care facility" means a nursing home facility, as
9 defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, or a managed
10 residential community, as defined in section 19a-693 of the general
11 statutes, with assisted living services regulated by the Department of
12 Public Health.

13 (b) Not later than seven days after introduction of any state-wide
14 policy, legislative proposal or regulation concerning living and care

15 conditions at long-term care facilities by any state agency or legislative
 16 committee having cognizance of matters concerning such policy,
 17 proposal or regulation, such agency or legislative committee shall
 18 inform the State Ombudsman, appointed pursuant to section 17a-405 of
 19 the general statutes, and the executive director of the Commission on
 20 Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, established
 21 pursuant to section 2-127 of the general statutes. The State Ombudsman
 22 and the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
 23 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall seek testimony from the
 24 Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Residents Councils and family
 25 councils concerning such policy, proposal or regulation. Such agency or
 26 legislative committee of cognizance shall accept such testimony in a
 27 manner and format that provides for the greatest input from members
 28 of residents and family councils, including, but not limited to, when
 29 practicable, remote testimony by such members via technology with
 30 audio or video capabilities.

31 (c) Any state task force appointed by the General Assembly or by a
 32 state agency that is studying issues concerning living or care conditions
 33 at long-term care facilities shall include among members
 34 representatives of residents councils and family councils. The
 35 chairpersons of such task force shall schedule meetings in a manner and
 36 format that provides for the greatest input from members of residents
 37 councils and family councils, including, but not limited to, when
 38 practicable, remote testimony by such members via technology with
 39 audio or video capabilities.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), "any state agency" was changed to "by any state agency" and "regulation shall" was changed to "regulation, such agency or legislative committee shall" for clarity.

AGE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill which makes various changes, including requiring impacted agencies and legislative committees to provide notification to the state long-term care ombudsman and Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 973*****AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE VOICE OF RESIDENTS AND FAMILY COUNCILS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires state agencies or legislative committees of cognizance to inform the (1) state long-term care ombudsman and (2) Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity executive director about statewide policies, legislative proposals, or regulations on long-term care facility living and care conditions. They must do this within seven days after such policy, proposal, or regulation is introduced.

The bill then requires the ombudsman and executive director to seek testimony from family councils and the Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils on these policies, legislative proposals, or regulations. It requires state agencies and legislative committees of cognizance to accept this testimony in a manner and format that provides for the greatest input from resident and family council members, including remote testimony via audio-video technology.

The bill also requires any state task force on long-term care facility care or living conditions that is appointed by the legislature or a state agency to include as members representatives of resident and family councils. The task force chairperson must schedule meetings in a way that provides for the greatest input from resident and family council members, in a similar manner as described above.

Under the bill, long-term care facilities include nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The bill defines “resident councils” as those elected and run by long-term care facility residents that bring to facility management concerns about resident living and care conditions.

“Family councils” are those comprised of family members of long-term care facility residents that bring concerns to facility management on resident living and care conditions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/11/2021)