



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 973**

January Session, 2021



**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.*