

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5334

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF LONG-TERM SERVICES AND

Title: SUPPORTS.

Vote Date: 3/24/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/10/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

H.B. 5334 will study the long-term care needs of Connecticut residents to ensure adequate resources are allocated. This bill will ensure that there are budgeted funds to finance long-term care facilities and staff that care for the elderly and disabled population. Results from such studies will be culminated by July 1, 2023, at which time the Commissioner of Social Services will address identified gaps in long-term care and resources that would improve the quality of care for future long-term care needs.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commissioner of Department of Social Services, Deidre Gifford, opposes the bill. DSS has already developed and implemented the Strategic Plan to Rebalance Long-Term Services and Supports in 2013, which is updated every three years to reflect the data they've collected.

Commissioner of the Department of Aging and Disability Services, Amy Porter, opposes the bill because they agree with the Department of Social Services that it is made unnecessary by similar work already being done by DSS on an ongoing basis.

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity supports the bill. The study could lead to innovative new ways to deliver services among various Long-Term Services and Supports program initiatives for our booming older adult population.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

President of Southwestern CT Agency on Aging, Marie Allen, supports this bill. A study may promote a more holistic view of aging in place that includes support for social determinants that pose barriers to community living.

Policy and Outreach Director of AARP Connecticut, Anna Doroghazi, supports the bill and feels it is would be helpful for the DSS and the Department of Aging and Disability Services to produce a single report that summarizes current and projected numbers of older adults in the state and what their needs may be.

Executive Director of Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Kathy Flaherty, supports this bill.

President and CEO of Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, Tracy Wodatch, supports the bill because it addresses the need for sufficient programs and healthcare workers to allow CT Medicaid beneficiaries to receive the necessary support services for them to age in place.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No additional opposition expressed.

Reported by: Molly Lukiwsky

Date: 3/28/2022