

Human Services Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5364

AN ACT PERSERVING ASSETS OF STATE HUMAN INSTITUTION

Title: RESIDENTS.

Vote Date: 3/19/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/07/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

For families grieving the loss of a loved one, the financial cost of paying the state is a heavy burden. It is especially difficult that families are made aware of these debts after the passing of a family member rather than during time spent in the care of the state. This bill looks to alleviate the stress that families experience in such circumstances, particularly aiding families who are facing socioeconomic challenges. The purpose of this bill is to protect families who are liable to the state for assets on behalf of a deceased family member who was previously a resident at a state humane institution. Allowing assets to remain with families alleviates financial pressure for those who would struggle to pay the state.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Executive Director, Kathy Flaherty; supports this bill stating that after a former resident of a state human institution dies, their assets can stay with their families rather than go to the state.

Connecticut Resident, Jonathan Aidukonis; supports this bill sharing that he received an unexpected letter following his mother's death which requested he pay the debts owed to the state for her time spent in a humane institution. It is stated that her time at the state humane institution took place many years prior to her death, yet the family was made aware of these

debts after her passing. It is stated that this bill would allow for greater respect to the lives of those who have passed rather than subjecting their life to financial recovery.

The following individuals have submitted written testimony for this bill.

Laura Rinaldi
Ray Rinaldi

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Hope Robb

Date: March 28, 2024