

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5457

AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOMES AND IMPLEMENTING NURSING

Title: HOME WAITING LIST RECOMMENDATIONS.

Vote Date: 3/19/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/14/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Many nursing homes in Connecticut currently use outdated wait list practices that hinder productivity and may violate applicant privacy. These practices include inaccurately recorded application dates which have resulted in prolonged wait times for prospective residents. This bill establishes a number of updates to the nursing home admissions process in Connecticut. This bill would ensure that the wait list and admissions process operate effectively to ensure prospective residents have timely access to the care that they need.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Lead Asian American Pacific Islander Policy Analyst, Megan Baker; supports this bill stating that it promotes fairness, accessibility, and transparency in the nursing home admission process. It is stated that privacy protection measures for the waiting list enhance the effectiveness and integrity of this system. It is also stated that requiring nursing homes to provide receipts to applicants and to maintain a dated waiting list will aid the care recipient and their caregiver in coordinating care and making informed decisions.

Department of Social Services (DSS), Commissioner, Andrew Barton Reeves; supports this bill stating that the electronic waitlist would modernize the current system and allow for information to be shared with families via email or letter. It is also stated that the provisions of this bill are in accordance with recommendations of the working group created by PA 23-186, comprised of representatives from the Departments of Social Services and Public Health, the State Ombudsman, and representatives from the nursing home industry.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP), State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Mairead Painter; supports this bill stating that the current system is outdated, and most facilities are not keeping an appropriate wait list. It is stated that the new provisions will modernize and improve the process of managing nursing home admissions and waiting lists. It is also stated that the electronic waiting lists will enhance transparency and streamline the process of investigating waitlist violations.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities/Connecticut Center for Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL), President and CEO, Matthew Barrett; supports this bill stating that it protects against nursing home wait list discrimination based on source of payment. It is also stated that the proposed electronic admission forms would modernize and improve the admission process.

Leading Age Connecticut, President, Mag Morelli; supports this bill stating that it includes necessary revisions to the outdated nursing home admission process. It is stated that the following statutes and regulations are out of date: how the list must be maintained, the manner in which persons on the list must be contacted, and the type of lists that must be maintained. It is stated that the provisions of this bill would update all of these ineffective practices.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Connecticut Resident, Bonnie Hilcker; opposes this bill and the nursing home industry as a whole due to safety and accountability concerns.

Reported by: Jaclyn Rauch

Date: April 1, 2024