

# Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-316

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF STATE-FUNDED ASSISTED LIVING

**Title:** SERVICES.

**Vote Date:** 3/19/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/5/2024

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Human Services Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

In order to provide the highest quality of life for CT residents who are aging or disabled, it is important to understand ways of enhancing the range of options for housing and support services available, focusing on just-in-time care in the least restrictive environment while optimizing state resources. Lack of access to community-based services may force the choice of nursing home placement when less restrictive options are unavailable. A study of the costs and benefits of expanding state-funded assisted living services, including the number of persons who may qualify, costs of services, and potential savings to the state by avoiding nursing home care will inform best practices and sound policy decisions.

## **SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:**

The substitute language changes the due date of the study from October 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Department of Social Services (DSS), Commissioner Andrea Barton Reeves;** opposes this bill because, it is stated, the due date for the report does not allow sufficient time or funding to research the issue and to complete the study, which is not currently accounted for in the Governor's recommended budget. It is stated this bill requires DSS to study the costs and benefits of expanding state-funded assisted living services for persons who qualify for the state-funded Connecticut home-care program for the elderly. *(The reporting deadline was changed in substitute language.)*

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Connecticut Assisted Living Association (CALA)**; supports this bill on the basis that (A) no such state study has ever been commissioned since the inception of the state's four programs which apply to subsidies to Assisted Living settings. It is stated that the four state programs which apply subsidies to Assisted Living settings have been greatly successful in maintaining residents in residential settings where care is available when needed, as needed and foster autonomy, dignity, and choice. It is also stated that subsidized Assisted Living settings save significant tax dollars over more costly, institutional settings.

**LeadingAge Connecticut, President, Mag Morelli**; supports the bill and stated they would be happy to assist with the study. It was stated that several of the state funded assisted living services housing sites are within the membership of LeadingAge CT and would welcome an exploration of the expansion of the program.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

No testimony was submitted in opposition to this bill.

**Reported by: Rebecca McClanahan**

**Date: March 28, 2024**