



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 320

LCO No. 1007

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PILOT PROGRAM OF NURSING HOME CARE FOR DEAF SENIOR CITIZENS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, "senior citizen" means a person sixty-five years of age or older.
3 The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
4 Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired created pursuant to
5 section 46a-27 of the general statutes, shall establish a pilot program,
6 within available appropriations, to provide specialized nursing home
7 care to senior citizens who are deaf. The commissioner shall conduct
8 such pilot program in at least one nursing home in the state that elects
9 to participate in the pilot program. The commissioner shall provide
10 grants-in-aid under the pilot program for: (1) The dedication of an
11 entire floor, wing or other residential area within the nursing home
12 solely for the care of senior citizens who are deaf; (2) the training of
13 nursing home staff in sign language or other interpreting skills
14 necessary for communication with such senior citizens; and (3) other
15 staffing costs directly associated with operating such floor, wing or
16 other residential area.

17 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services may adopt regulations, in
18 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the
19 provisions of this section. Not later than October 1, 2003, the
20 commissioner shall report in accordance with section 11-4a of the
21 general statutes to the General Assembly concerning the status of the
22 pilot program established pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a pilot program, within available appropriations, to provide specialized nursing home care to senior citizens who are deaf.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]