



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 320**

*February Session, 2002*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PILOT PROGRAM OF SPECIALIZED CARE FOR DEAF RESIDENTS OF NURSING HOMES.**

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

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

16 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services may adopt regulations, in  
17 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the  
18 provisions of this section. Not later than October 1, 2003, the  
19 commissioner shall report in accordance with section 11-4a of the

20 general statutes to the General Assembly concerning the status of the  
21 pilot program established pursuant to this section.

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

***PH***

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP