



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 416

January Session, 2003

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1146

Senate, April 16, 2003

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. MURPHY of the 16th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT ROOMS IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, "nursing home facilities" shall have the same meaning as in
3 section 19a-521 of the general statutes.

4 (b) Each nursing home facility shall have cooling equipment
5 adequate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of
6 such facility.

7 (c) The Department of Public Health, in consultation with the State
8 Building Inspector, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
9 provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the
10 purposes of this section. Such regulations shall include, but need not
11 be limited to, specifications for such cooling equipment and acceptable
12 temperature ranges.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Subsection (b) was rewritten in the active voice for consistency with the format of the general statutes.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	\$26,625	\$51,050
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits)	GF - Cost	\$4,800	\$18,850
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires that each nursing facility have cooling equipment necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents. Costs to the Departments of Public Health and Social Services are discussed below. It is anticipated that the State Building Inspector under the Department of Public Safety will be able to collaborate regarding the development of regulations within the agency’s anticipated budgetary resources.

Department of Public Health

Assuming adoption of the required regulations midway through FY 04, resulting costs of \$31,425 would ensue. Included in this sum is \$26,625 to support the half-year salary of one Building Fire & Safety Inspector under the Department of Public Health (DPH), as well as associated other expenses. Also included are \$4,800 in fringe benefit costs, which are budgeted centrally in miscellaneous accounts administered by the Comptroller¹. In FY 05 the annualized cost for the

¹ The total fringe benefit reimbursement rate as a percentage of payroll is 40.21 percent, effective July 1, 2002. However, first year fringe benefit costs for new positions do not include pension costs, lowering the rate to 18.81 percent in FY 04.

position would be approximately \$69,900 (\$51,050 DPH; \$18,850 fringe benefits). The Inspector would be needed to review plans from 255 nursing home facilities and perform inspections of those undergoing construction projects as a result of the new regulations.

Department of Social Services

Under current Medicaid policy, cooling system installations and upgrades are considered allowable fixed property/capital costs for which a rate adjustment may be made. To the extent that this bill results in nursing facilities making previously unscheduled or more extensive cooling system upgrades, the Department of Social Services will incur increased Medicaid costs. The extent of these costs will be dependent upon the cooling system requirements developed by the Department of Public Health and the number of homes that will need modifications in order to meet these requirements. Any such increased Medicaid costs will be eligible for 50% reimbursement from the federal government.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 1146

AN ACT CONCERNING PATIENT ROOMS IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES

SUMMARY:

This bill requires nursing homes to have adequate cooling equipment to protect their residents' health, safety, and welfare. It requires the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the state building inspector, to adopt regulations that include specifications for cooling equipment and acceptable temperature ranges.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 11 Nay 10