
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6462

AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM TO EXPAND THE DUTIES OF THE STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OLTCO), by January 1, 2014, to develop a plan to expand the state ombudsman's oversight to include home- and community-based care recipients in addition to long-term care facility residents. The expansion must start by July 1, 2014 as a pilot program in Hartford County.

The bill also requires the state ombudsman, in consultation with the aging commissioner (who has not yet been appointed), to convene a working group of (1) home- and community-based care providers and consumers, (2) representatives of state agencies overseeing such care, and (3) OLTCO staff.

The working group must (1) conduct research on nationwide best practices for responding to abuse and neglect complaints filed by home- and community-based care recipients, (2) develop training for regional ombudsmen to respond to such complaints, and (3) identify funding sources to pay for the state ombudsman's new oversight responsibilities.

The bill requires the state ombudsman to submit legislative recommendations to implement the pilot program to the Aging and Human Services committees by February 1, 2014.

The bill also makes a conforming change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

BACKGROUND

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

OLTCO represents the interests of residents in nursing and residential care homes and assisted living facilities. Among other things, the office receives and investigates residents' complaints about their care; provides education and information to consumers, agencies, and providers; and monitors state and federal laws and regulations. One state and eight regional ombudsmen carry out these duties, assisted by over 50 volunteers.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/07/2013)