



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 138

February Session, 2014

House Bill No. 5229

House of Representatives, March 26, 2014

The Committee on Aging reported through REP. SERRA of the 33rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF A SMALL HOUSE NURSING HOME PILOT PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-372 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "small house nursing home" means an
4 alternative nursing home facility that (1) consists of one or more units
5 that are designed and modeled as a private home, (2) houses no more
6 than fourteen individuals in each unit, (3) includes private rooms and
7 bathrooms, (4) provides for an increased role for support staff in the
8 care of residents, (5) incorporates a philosophy of individualized care,
9 and (6) is licensed as a nursing home under chapter 368v.

10 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services may [establish] expand,
11 within available appropriations, a pilot program to support the
12 development of [one] small house nursing [home] homes in the state,
13 including, but not limited to, a facility at the Masonicare health

14 facilities in Wallingford, in order to improve the quality of life for
15 nursing home residents and to support a goal of providing nursing
16 home care in a more home-like and less institution-like setting. The
17 total number of beds under such [project] pilot program shall not
18 exceed [two hundred eighty beds] three hundred eighty at all facilities.

19 (c) A small house nursing home developed under this section shall
20 comply with the provisions of sections 17b-352 to 17b-354, inclusive.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	17b-372

AGE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Up to \$2.4 million

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill could result in a cost to the Department of Social Services of up to \$2.4 million associated with fair rent payments due to the expansion of the small house nursing home pilot program. The bill 1) removes the cap (of one home), 2) specifies that Masonicare Health Facility in Wallingford will be included under the expansion, and 3) increases the number of beds allowed under the pilot from 280 to 380.

Based on costs for the recently approved 280 bed small house nursing home pilot in Fairfield (Jewish Home for the Elderly), construction costs to support 100 additional beds are estimated to be approximately \$38.7 million. This will increase the allowable fair rent payments (under Medicaid) by approximately \$2.4 million annually.¹ Based on anticipated design and construction time, these costs are not expected to be incurred until 2019.

The Out Years

As identified above, costs are not anticipated to occur until 2019.

¹ This assumes the total number of licensed beds is maintained at the pilot facilities.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5229*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE EXPANSION OF A SMALL HOUSE NURSING HOME PILOT PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows the social services commissioner to expand, within available appropriations, the “small house nursing home” pilot program, which is currently capped at one such home. The homes are modeled after private homes and afford residents more privacy, increased support staff, and individualized care.

The bill removes the cap on the number of homes and allows one of them to be a facility at the Masonicare health facilities in Wallingford. It also increases the cap on the number of program beds from 280 to 380 at all the facilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

BACKGROUND***Small House Nursing Home***

By law, a “small house nursing home” is an alternative nursing home facility that:

1. consists of one or more units designed and modeled as a private home,
2. houses no more than 14 people in each unit,
3. includes private rooms and bathrooms,
4. provides an increased role for support staff in the care of residents,
5. incorporates a philosophy of individualized care, and

6. is licensed as a nursing home.

The facilities must comply with the existing law's certificate of need requirements and processes.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)