



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Public Health
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**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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**House Bill 6887- AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF RESIDENTS IN HEALTH CARE
INSTITUTIONS**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) supports HB 6887 and offers the following information regarding this bill:

Section 1 clarifies that a nursing home is not only under the supervision of a licensed nursing home administrator, but that the nursing home administrator is responsible for the quality and safety of all services provided in a nursing home. Clarifying and qualifying the duties and responsibilities of the licensed nursing home administrator, and reinforcing responsibility for quality and safety, will ensure greater accountability for the delivery of care and services provided in a nursing home, which will ultimately result in positive resident outcomes.

Section 2 expands the requirements for discharge planning for residents in a residential care home (RCH). Currently, discharge planning in the RCH environment does not focus on the assessed needs of the resident. The new requirements are person centered and promote a comprehensive discharge plan that will consider the resident's medical conditions as well as his or her social and emotional wellbeing. Expanding the requirements will promote safer and more comprehensive discharge planning that will lead to positive resident outcomes.

Section 3 increases the civil money penalty associated with Class A and Class B violations by nursing home facilities or residential care homes. These fines have not been increased since 1987.

Section 4 provides for technical changes to the nursing facility management services application and directs that the applicant submit to a criminal background check in accordance with CGS Section 29-17a. Requirements for a nursing home license include that the applicant shall submit to a state and national criminal history background check. Expanding such criminal history background check to nursing facility management service entities will provide for consistency within the realm of nursing home operations. Nursing facility management service entities provide and manage the operations of nursing facilities, to include the provision of care

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and services. However, should significant non-compliance be identified during the course of an inspection activity, the nursing facility management service may not always be engaged in the process of correction and/or accountability. This section provides the Department the authority to initiate disciplinary action against a nursing facility management service entity and includes a civil monetary penalty for failures of a nursing facility under such nursing facility management service entity's purview.

Section 5 provides for consistency across all healthcare institutions as defined in 19a-490. Currently, the law is inconsistent regarding health care institutions and required reporting to the Department when there is a major or potential for a major disruption to patient care services. The bill proposes that all healthcare institutions as defined in 19a-490 of the Connecticut General Statutes report to the Department any major system failures, i.e. loss of water, loss of heat, loss of electricity and/or being supplied by an alternative source. Notification to the Department will not only promote consistency but will ensure greater protections are in place, in that the Department will monitor for continuity of quality care and/or assist with assets as appropriate when such notification is made.

The Department of Public Health would like to thank the Committee for raising the Department's bill.