

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-565

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF NURSING HOME SERVICES.

Vote Date: 2/20/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/14/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill directs the Commissioner of Social Services to study nursing homes in the state to determine if there is a sufficient number and that the services offered to meet the need for residents in the state. The study shall include a report on decreases or increases in nursing home population, state budget expenditures on nursing home care from 2013 to 2018 and the projected number of people who will need nursing home care in fiscal year 2021. It should also include any programmatic or legislative changes that are needed to serve folks in need of institutionalized care.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Dept. of Social Services: The Dept. submitted testimony in opposition to the bill stating that the legislation is not needed. The General Assembly implemented the Strategic Plan to Rebalance Long- Term Services and Supports in 2013 and that this captures the data and planning strategies that are contemplated by this bill. Additionally Connecticut General Statutes (section 17b-337) requires the Connecticut Long-Term Care Planning Committee to prepare a long-term care plan every three years. The most recent plan, Working Toward Real Choice for Long-Term Services and Supports in Connecticut was released in January 2019.

Mairead Painter, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman: She offered testimony in support of this legislation. The long term projections for nursing home care in the state have shown a decrease in the need for institutional beds but she wants to be sure the persons have the ability to stay in their own community. The ombudsman would like to see another opportunity for nursing homes to downsize the number of beds to keep more nursing home options open for residents.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut: They have no objection to this bill. They believe that projections in the Report on Connecticut's Medicaid Long Term Care Need Projections produced in 20112 estimated a current need for 3,000 fewer nursing home beds and they would support the development of a multifaceted effort to reach that goal.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No testimony presented.

Reported by: Richard Ferrari, Assistant Clerk 2/26/19
Gaia McDermott, Clerk