

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5098

AN ACT RAISING THE PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN
Title: RESIDENTS OF LONG-TERM CARE INSTITUTIONS.

Vote Date: 3/3/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/18/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill is intended to increase the amount of money residents of long-term care institutions who receive medical assistance may keep for personal needs. Increasing the personal needs allowance for residents of long-term care facilities will maintain their level of independence and quality of life.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

AARP of Connecticut

AARP of Connecticut expressed support to this bill. The organization mentioned that increasing the personal allowance for long-term care residents from \$60 to \$72 per month would allow institutionalized individuals to better meet their personal needs.

Jean Mills Aranha, Managing Attorney, Stamford Office of Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.

The Managing Attorney expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that an increase in personal allowance would enhance a nursing home resident's personal experience and quality of life.

James Young, Vice Chair, Elder Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association

The Vice Chair expressed support to this bill. He mentioned that an increase in personal allowance would benefit nursing home residents but will result in a financial burden on the state.

Jeanette Sullivan Martinez, President, Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Residents Councils

The President expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that the previous personal allowance limit was too low for a comfortable quality of life. By increasing the personal allowance, nursing home residents maintain dignity and an elevated quality of life.

Golden Hill Rehab Pavilion

Multiple patients, residents, staff, and family of the Golden Hill Rehab Pavilion expressed support to this bill. They have each signed a testimony in support of the bill and have stated that an increase will provide a better quality of life.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Sen. Heather Somers, 18th Assembly District

Senator Heather Somers expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that providing an increase in personal allowance will allow nursing home residents, who have exhausted their financial resources, to live comfortably.

Sen. Paul Formica, 20th Assembly District

Senator Paul Formica expressed support to this bill. He mentioned that the personal needs allowance has not changed since 2011. The increase will allow nursing home residents the ability to afford a quality of life at their most vulnerable time.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

The Committee has received an estimated 14 testimonies in support of this bill.

**Reported by: Shelby Michelle Williams
Clerk: Gaia McDermott**

Date: 03/11/2020