
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 973

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE VOICE OF RESIDENTS AND FAMILY COUNCILS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires state agencies or legislative committees of cognizance to inform the (1) state long-term care ombudsman and (2) Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity executive director about statewide policies, legislative proposals, or regulations on long-term care facility living and care conditions. They must do this within seven days after such policy, proposal, or regulation is introduced.

The bill then requires the ombudsman and executive director to seek testimony from family councils and the Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils on these policies, legislative proposals, or regulations. It requires state agencies and legislative committees of cognizance to accept this testimony in a manner and format that provides for the greatest input from resident and family council members, including remote testimony via audio-video technology.

The bill also requires any state task force on long-term care facility care or living conditions that is appointed by the legislature or a state agency to include as members representatives of resident and family councils. The task force chairperson must schedule meetings in a way that provides for the greatest input from resident and family council members, in a similar manner as described above.

Under the bill, long-term care facilities include nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The bill defines “resident councils” as those elected and run by long-term care facility residents that bring to facility management concerns about resident living and care conditions. “Family councils” are those comprised of family members

of long-term care facility residents that bring concerns to facility management on resident living and care conditions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/11/2021)