
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 973 (File 192, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE VOICE OF RESIDENTS AND FAMILY COUNCILS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires state agencies to inform the (1) state long-term care ombudsman and (2) Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity executive director about legislative proposals or new or revised regulations on long-term care facility living and care conditions. They must do this within three days after submitting a proposal to the legislature or publishing a notice of intent on the eRegulations System proposing a regulation.

For proposed regulations, other than those that are emergency or technical, the bill requires the ombudsman and executive director to immediately inform the Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Residents Councils and family councils that the agency is required to hold a public hearing upon the request of at least 15 people within 14 days after the notice of intent is posted on the eRegulations System.

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, when it is practicable and permissible under the agency's or committee's rules. Under the bill, this includes remote testimony via audio or 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 (1) resident councils; (2) family councils; and (3) the chairpersons and ranking members of the Aging Committee, or their designees. 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.

*Senate Amendment “A” (1) eliminates the requirement in the underlying bill that state agencies inform the ombudsman and executive director about statewide policies, in addition to legislative proposals and regulations; (2) shortens, from seven to three days, the deadline by which state agencies must provide notification of legislative proposals and regulations; (3) adds the notification requirement regarding public hearings; (4) specifies that a state agency must accept testimony in certain formats only when practicable and permissible under its rules; and (5) adds as task force members, the Aging Committee chairpersons and ranking members, or their designees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/11/2021)