



PA 21-194—SB 973

Aging Committee

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE VOICE OF RESIDENTS AND FAMILY COUNCILS

SUMMARY: This act 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 posting a notice of intent on the eRegulations System proposing a regulation.

For proposed regulations, other than those that are emergency or technical, the act 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 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 act, this includes remote testimony via audio or audio-video technology.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage