

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-262
AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF HOMEMAKER-COMPANION AGENCY
Title: ISSUES.
Vote Date: 3/10/2022
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/8/2022
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill establishes a task force to study issue about homemaker-companion agencies. The committee was informed that the homemaker-companion industry had faced many challenges during the past years, and a task force could help highlight potential solutions.

JFS language expands Section 1 (#6) "to include services such agencies are authorized to provide, services such agencies advertise and whether additional limitations are needed on services such agencies may advertise."

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Mr. Michael Werner, Policy Analyst, Comm. on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity: They offer their testimony in support of this proposal. They believe that the Task Force can help set the table for expectations and quality assurance measures that will meet the investment being applied throughout the system of Homemaker-Companion Agencies.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Mr. Mark McGoldrick, Chairman, Home Care Assoc. of America: They are in support of this legislation and offer their participation in the task force believing that their experience and expertise would benefit the study. They also suggest that the task force expand its study to including the caregiver shortage and low Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Mr. Steven Katz, Chairman, Comm. on Aging, Town of Greenwich: They support this bill. Connecticut has lagged the rest of the nation in having a coherent well-structured system for caring for older adults. It would be a missed opportunity if this study solely focused on companion-homemaker agencies and did not address the bigger issue of how older adults should be cared for in their homes.

Ms. Anna Doroghazi, Policy and Outreach Director, AARP: They offer their testimony in support of the bill. Connecticut has made progress in providing long-term care recipients with opportunities to receive services in settings of the choosing. Policymakers must ensure that homemaker-companion services are of high quality. AARP supports a study into how these services can be supported and improved.

Ms. Leah Cantor, Advocate: She offers her testimony in support of this proposal. She shared her story her father, a dementia patient who required 24/7 care due to his condition. She stated that more needs to be done to ensure that seniors, especially those with dementia, are better served and protected. She hopes that this study can bring some of the crucial issues to the forefront and improve the State's performance of caring for and protecting its elderly citizens.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Godbout, Constituent: He expressed opposition to al bills put forward by the Committee under the claim of nullification.

Reported by:

Date: 3/15/22

**Cameron Clarke, Committee Clerk
Richard Ferrari, Asst. Clerk**