

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5292

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING COMMUNITY COMPANION

Title: HOMES.

Vote Date: 3/11/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/1/2024

File No.: 106

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SPONSORS OF BILL

The Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

In the past, the Department of Developmental Disability Services (DDS) has not shared information regarding substantiated abuse and neglect claims at community companion homes with state agencies, such as Department of Children and Families (DCF), Department of Social Services (DSS), and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DHMAS). This bill allows DDS to share this information with other state agencies for the benefit of residents/patients under the care of these agencies. Substitute language adds DCF -requested language that allows the agency to use the information for licensure and certification processes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Sarah Eagan, Child Advocate, Office of the Child Advocate

In November of 2023, the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) produced an investigative report that identified deficiencies in the safety net and services for disabled individuals. The Office of the Inspector General had also reported on these deficiencies noting that this was not in compliance with Medicaid requirements. This bill addresses some of these concerns by allowing DDS to share information regarding the deficiencies at community companion homes with the state agencies who participate in their residents' care.

Jordan Scheff, Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Current state law does not allow DDS to share information regarding substantiated abuse and neglect claims against community companion homes with other state agencies. This bill addresses that concern and allows these agencies to use this information to make more informed decisions when interviewing or hiring former licensees.

Jody Hill-Lilly, Commissioner Designate, Department of Children and Families (DCF)

This bill allows DDS to share information on substantiated abuse and neglect claims that resulted in suspension or revocation of the licensure of that home. DCF asked that substitute language be included that would allow DCF to use the information for licensure and certification purposes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

There was no other testimony submitted in support of this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

There was no testimony submitted in opposition to this bill.

Reported by: David Rackliffe, Asst Clerk

Date: March 12, 2024