

**Human Services Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No: HB-5357 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES.

Vote Date: 3/19/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/3/2026

File No.: 415

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This legislation is to support the financial stability of residential care homes with adequate state reimbursement to ensure they can support staff wages, ensure residents are receiving the proper care, and maintain facilities.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

CT Aging and Disability Services (ADS), Mairead Painter, CT State Long Term Care Ombudsman supports this bill because it would strengthen the financial stability of residential care homes. This would be represented by safer environments for the residents, less staff turnover, and increased quality of life supports. A financially secure residential care home would also allow for reduced risk of homelessness through discharge planning and smoother transitions to different placements.

Department of Social Services (DSS), Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner opposes the bill as currently written because it conflicts with the current regulations and rates of reimbursement for residential care homes. To increase the salary of administrators will increase the cost to the state supplemental program by \$1 million and, “the bill also provides for an inflationary adjustment of 3% in FY 2027, which will increase costs to the state supplemental program by approximately \$2.9 million.” There are also concerns regarding the allowable fair rent increase because the intent is unclear, and the department asks for a more detailed analysis to fully understand the fiscal impact. Expressed apprehension regarding the rebasing rates, specifically the fact that the provision removes it entirely when it is essential to ensure costs are correct when reimbursing these facilities. The Department asks that line 239 be edited since the language in that line is already contained in line 229.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Leading Age CT, Mag Morelli, President: supports this bill because residential care homes are crucial to aging services in CT, and state supplement rate enhancements are necessary for these programs to become sustainable.

Shailerville Manor, Ron Alger, Administrator:

Pleasant View Manor, Rhonda Boisvert, Owner:

Westside Manor, Simona Dhanraj, Assistant Administrator:

Meadowbrook Manor and Harbor Side Care Home, Derrick Gibbs Jr, Administrator:

Greystone Retirement Home, Jaswinder Singh, Administrator:

Char-Laine Manor Inc., Cheryl Dence, Owner and Administrator:

Westcott-Wilcox Elderly Residential Housing Inc., Nicole Duchesney, Executive Director:

Leeway Residential Care Home, Jay Katz, Executive Director:

Essex Village Manor, Kal Patel, Administrator:

Support the bill because residential care homes protect vulnerable residents while also maintaining a strong workforce. Residential care homes currently struggle with high staff turnover. Due to a lack of adequate funding, they don't have the means to attract new people to the industry or pay them a competitive wage. When employees at these types of facilities are long-term workers, it leads to better relationships with the residents and allows for better long-term health outcomes. Because of an increase in insurance and utility prices, staff and administrators have had to rely on loans, credit cards, and even personal income to help their facilities run.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Amber Monzillo

Date: March 26, 2026