

# **Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No.:** HB-6972

AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFERS AND DISCHARGES IN RESIDENTIAL

**Title:** CARE HOMES.

**Vote Date:** 3/4/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/28/2025

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Aging Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill revises requirements as they relate to the transfer or discharge of residents from residential care homes. Federal regulations explicitly set forth protections around transfers and discharges in nursing homes but are silent as to similar discharges in residential care homes. This gap leaves CT residents vulnerable to potentially unjust discharge practices. As a result, this bill seeks to safeguard the rights and well-being of CT residential care home residents by establishing clear and comprehensive protections and procedures related to their transfer or discharge.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Aging and Disability Services, Ms. Mairead Painter, Long-Term Care Ombudsman:** This bill ensures that residents are provided protection by strengthening notification requirements that will ensure that the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's office is notified. She **supports** the bill but offers language that would result in a strong enforcement element.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**LeadingAge, Connecticut, Ms. Mag Morelli, President:** They have no objection to the proposal, but they have a concern about the cumbersome process of requiring an attestation that the transfer or discharge notice has been submitted to the web site portal. They wonder if this is necessary.

**Connecticut Legal Services, Ms. Jean Mills Aranha, Elder Law Attorney:** They offered their testimony in **support** of this legislation. The language adds additional protections by requiring in the notice, the location of the where the resident will be discharged to and the home is required to transmit the notice to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes, Mr. Kal Patel, Board Member:** They **oppose** this bill since PA 22-58, which updated the residential care home discharge statute, has not been fully implemented by the Dept. of Public Health. The Dept. of Public Health was tasked with developing a uniform involuntary discharge form and a discharge plan and this form has not yet been developed.

**Blessed House, Plainville, Conn., Mr. Sanjeev Powari, Owner:** They offered testimony in **opposition** to this proposal. They point out that PA 22-58 has not been fully implemented by the Dept. of Health. They offered comments concerning a situation with a resident who had been smoking in the room and after several warnings he did not stop. He admitted multiple times that he had been smoking in the room but none of these reports helped in getting him discharged. This situation took 6 months to resolve.

**April Time Residential Care Home, Manchester, Conn., Mr. Manvinder Bhachu, Owner:** He **opposes** this bill and pointed out that PA 22-58 has not yet been fully implemented. He offered antidotal evidence about a resident they had who was a fall risk, incontinent, and lacked the strength to get off the toilet or bed. It took 5 months for her to be discharged as an emergency due to her risk to herself and others.

**Tracy Manor, West Hartford, Conn., Mr. Steve Richheimer, Owner:** His comments were in **opposition** to this legislation. He indicates that PA 22-58 has not been fully implemented by the Dept. of Health as others did. He also cited a case where a resident at Alberta Manor would deliberately set fire to the pull strings on the nurse call station and the Ombudsman and Public Health Dept. delayed his discharge.

**Reported by: Richard Ferrari, Assistant Clerk  
Alexander Mercier, Clerk**

**Date: 3/14/2025**