

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6986

Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SENIOR CITIZENS' BILL OF RIGHTS.

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 establishes a “Bill of Rights” for seniors 65 years old or older. It specifies that they have the right to live in a community of their choosing, be as independent as possible, participate in their care decisions, live with dignity, and be treated inclusively as their authentic selves. The bill seeks to establish and reinforce clear and simple rights that seniors can see and use to ensure they are treated fairly throughout their entire lives.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Office of the State Comptroller, Sean Scanlon, State Comptroller: He offered testimony in **support** of this legislation. The LGBTQIA+ prioritized a Senior Bill of Rights this session recognizing the need to protect LGBTQ+ from discrimination as they age. This bill is a step toward ensuring the LGBTQ+ individuals in long-term care facilities are treated fairly.

Aging and Disability Services, Ms. Mairead Painter, Long-Term Care Ombudsman: Her comments were in **support** of this bill. She indicates that every person has the right to live in the community of their choosing and that this bill formally recognizes that right.

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Mr. Michael Werner, Lead Policy Analyst: They are in **support** of this proposal and believe that a senior citizens bill of rights would provide seniors with clear protections while ensuring that they have the freedom they need to make their own choices and maintain control over their lives. Passage of the bill would bring peace of mind not just to seniors, but also to their families and caregivers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[LeadingAge Connecticut, Ms. Mag Morelli, President](#): They **support** this statement for our state's older adults. Their only concern is that the mandate to post this notice of rights in nursing home and managed residential communities as these settings each have their own unique bill of rights for residents.

[AARP Connecticut, Ms. Nora Duncan, State Director](#): They **support** this bill because it acknowledges that inclusivity and respect must extend to all people. They are pleased to see the requirement that this legislation requires that each nursing home, managed residential community and facilities housing elderly persons by the state shall post notice of this Bill of Rights.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[One Standard of Justice, Ms. Cindy Prizio, President](#): She **opposes** this bill because she thinks it will not accomplish its purpose due to the verbiage in lines 5-8 of the bill that states the rights "are available only insofar as they are implemented in accordance with other parts of the general statutes, state rules and regulations, federal law, the Constitution of the state and the Constitution of the United States." She believes that this language creates a loophole that gives the bill no power, and that it instead reinforces disparities of care that seniors receive in CT.

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

Date: 3/14/2025