

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1280

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMUNITY

Title: OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/4/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/20/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This proposal makes technical and clarifying changes to the state ombudsman statutes which allows for community ombudsmen to oversee home and community-based services. These changes are meant to address the ever-evolving landscape of long-term care services, in which many are now opting for home and/or community care services.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Dept. of Social Services, Ms. Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner: They **support** this bill. The changes recommended in this legislation provide clarification of the oversight of the Community Ombudsman Program and does not change the departments responsibilities related to the Ombudsman Program.

Dept. of Aging and Disability Services, Ms. Amy Porter, Commissioner: They are in **support** of this legislation in that it will fix some inconsistencies in the statutory definitions for the Community Ombudsman program which is housed with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's office.

Connecticut Dept. of Aging and Disability Services, Ms. Mairead Painter, Long-Term Care Ombudsman: She is also in **support** of the proposal since it will address the inconsistent language. Addressing this and streamlining it to match the definitions used by other state agencies ensures clarity and addresses any questions as we move forward.

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Mr. Michael Werner, Lead Policy Analyst: They **support** the bill and point out that it makes technical changes to definitions established in existing legislation to better align with current understanding of home and community-based long-term services and supports.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Legal Services, Ms. Jean Mills Aranha, Elder Law Attorney: They are in **support** of this proposal since they believe that it will encompass more services that the Community Ombudsman program can assist with at this time.

Home Matters Caregiving, Ms. Asha Samal, Owner: She **supports** this and other bills that enhance senior citizens quality of life.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted.

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

Date: 3/14/2025