



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 6987

LCO No. 5072



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:
(AGE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CLOSURES AND EVACUATIONS OF
RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES AND NURSING HOMES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 19a-535 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (g) The facility shall be responsible for assisting the resident in
5 finding appropriate placement and, in providing such assistance, shall
6 consider the resident's proximity to family members and any other
7 known support networks.

8 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 19a-535a of the general statutes is
9 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
10 *passage*):

11 (c) The facility shall be responsible for assisting the resident in finding
12 an alternative residence and, in providing such assistance, shall consider
13 the resident's proximity to family members and any other known
14 support networks. A discharge plan, prepared by the facility, in a form

15 and manner prescribed by the commissioner, as modified from time to
16 time, shall include the resident's individual needs and shall be
17 submitted to the resident not later than seven days after the notice of
18 transfer or discharge is issued to the resident. The facility shall submit
19 the discharge plan to the commissioner at or before the hearing held
20 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

21 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public Health shall
22 conduct a study to examine nursing home and residential care home
23 evacuation procedures relating to transportation, including, but not
24 limited to, an examination of who is responsible for coordinating the
25 transportation of nursing home and residential care home residents
26 during an evacuation. Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner
27 shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
28 of the general statutes, regarding such study to the joint standing
29 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
30 relating to aging and public health.

31 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) No person acting individually
32 or jointly with any other person shall establish, conduct, operate or
33 maintain a nursing home or residential care home, as such terms are
34 defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, without maintaining
35 insurance that provides coverage for loss or damage to the personal
36 property of nursing home or residential care home residents as a result
37 of the closure or evacuation of such nursing home or residential care
38 home. The amount of such insurance shall be sufficient to replace any
39 such personal property lost or damaged as a result of such a closure or
40 evacuation.

41 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2026,
42 the Commissioner of Public Health shall develop and maintain a
43 database that tracks real-time bed availability in nursing homes and
44 residential care homes, as such terms are defined in section 19a-490 of
45 the general statutes, to facilitate placements in nursing homes and
46 residential care homes. The commissioner shall make such database

47 accessible to nursing homes, residential care homes and any state
48 agency or other entity that the commissioner deems appropriate.

49 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2026,
50 the Commissioner of Social Services shall develop and maintain an
51 automated benefits transfer system for the purpose of facilitating the
52 timely transition of benefits and payments to a nursing home or
53 residential care home resident in the event that a nursing home or
54 residential care home resident is transferred to a new facility on an
55 emergency basis.

56 Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public Health, in
57 consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall conduct a
58 study to examine methods to employ alternative housing solutions,
59 including, but not limited to, offering rental assistance program
60 certificates through the Connecticut Housing Engagement and Support
61 Services Initiative, to provide support to residential care home residents
62 who are discharged from a residential care home. Not later than January
63 1, 2026, the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the
64 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding such study
65 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
66 cognizance of matters relating to aging and public health.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	19a-535(g)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	19a-535a(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require nursing homes and residential care homes to consider resident proximity to family and other support networks when

transferring or discharging a resident, (2) require the Commissioner of Public Health to study nursing home and residential care home evacuation procedures relating to transportation, (3) require nursing homes and residential care homes to maintain insurance for residents' personal property lost or damaged as a result of an evacuation, (4) establish a database that provides real-time tracking of nursing home and residential care home bed availability, (5) establish an automated benefits transfer system to facilitate the transfer of benefits and payments when a nursing home or residential care home resident is transferred to a new facility on an emergency basis, and (6) require the Commissioner of Public Health to study methods to employ alternative housing solutions to provide living arrangements to residential care home residents impacted by mandated bed reductions.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]