

---

---

## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 5485 (as amended by House "A")\***

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Human Services Committee chairpersons to appoint a working group to study and make recommendations on supported decision-making, which is a process of helping decision-makers (generally people with disabilities and older adults) understand the nature and consequences of personal and financial decisions and communicate them.

More specifically, the working group must study and make recommendations on the following:

1. documentation needed for a decision-maker to conduct financial transactions with a supporter's help;
2. how a supporter can best help along with other legally recognized decision-making authorities who are commonly present in long-term care and other health-care settings;
3. how to protect health information and educational records under federal law (for example, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA));
4. ways to protect a decision-maker against a supporter's financial or ethical conflicts of interest; and
5. how supported decision-making agreements can be used as an alternative to a conservatorship or guardianship.

Under the bill, the working group members must include state-based organizations and individuals, including at least (1) two representatives

of organizations representing financial institutions and hospitals, (2) one nursing home representative, (3) one Probate Court Administrator designee, (4) one representative of private practice physicians, and (5) six representatives of people who may benefit from using supported decision-making agreements. All members serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority.

The bill requires the Human Services Committee chairpersons to appoint the working group chairperson from among its members and schedule the first meeting within 30 days after the bill's passage.

Lastly, the bill requires the working group to report its recommendations to the Banking, Government Oversight, Human Services, Judiciary, and Public Health committees by December 31, 2026.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill (File 429) with the working group provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/19/2026)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 47 Nay 6 (04/17/2026)