

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-288 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EXCEPTIONS TO THE NURSING HOME BED MORATORIUM, NURSING HOME RESIDENT DATA AND NURSING

Title: HOME REIMBURSEMENT RATE CAPS FOR RELATED PARTY EMPLOYEES.

Vote Date: 3/5/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following Joint Favorable Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will authorize additional nursing home beds in certain geographic areas under certain conditions, as well as requiring licensed nursing homes to submit resident data in a timely fashion to assist in calculating reimbursement rates and authorize the Commissioner of Social Services to remove related parties as employers in considering costs of determining nursing home rates.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

None applicable.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut Aging and Disability Services, Ms. Mairead Painter, Long-Term Care](#)

Ombudsman: This organization **supports** this bill and its prioritization of residents over expansion. They appreciate that the emphasis on person-centered care and focus on public need. Advancements in data accuracy, reimbursement integrity and submission of information are key in maintaining quality standards.

[Connecticut Department of Social Services, Ms. Shantelle Varrs, Deputy](#)

Commissioner: The Department of Social Services is in strong **support** of SB-00288. They support that the bill provides necessary access to nursing home amenities and ensure

funding from Medicaid. They agree that monitoring new nursing home beds is vital to maintain the level of care for vulnerable residents and appreciate that balancing and potentially relocating will assist in maintaining quality care and ensuring that the level of beds is appropriate by geographic location and number of patients.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Leading Age, Ms. Mag Morelli, President: Leading Age **supports** Sections 1 and 2 of this bill and planning for long-term services in nursing home care. They suggest revisiting of the 15-mile radius to measure need for nursing home beds in a certain geographic area and state that this radius may be outside of traditional geographic service areas and/or highway systems and boundaries.

They expressed concerns regarding the auditing process and believe that the suggested 10-days should be extended and that further clarification is needed with respect to deadlines. They assert that MDS audits should be treated similarly to other DSS audits.

AARP, Ms. Natalie Shurtleff, Associate State Director, Advocacy and Community Outreach: AARP **supports** reforms that promote small house nursing homes. They believe that they contribute to resident-centered care, staff empowerment and quality of results. They describe in detail 'Green House' nursing homes and their core values in their written testimony.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities/Connecticut Center for Assisted Living, Mr. Matthew Barrett, President & CEO: The CAHCF/CCAL opposes the bill as drafted and recommends several revisions. They believe that strategies should be developed to increase smaller nursing homes and increase single-bed rooms. They assert that applications to DSS and DPH for Medicaid reimbursements should be simultaneous to allow for alignment with public health goals. They believe that the timeframe for converting to two bed rooms should be adjusted from July 1, 2026 to July 1, 2029. Further details are provided in their written testimony.

They also recommend that improvements be made to audit practices to prevent flaws related to extrapolation and revisions to the acuity-based payment system to reduce compliance challenges. Concerns were expressed regarding salary allowances and disallowances related to collective bargaining agreements. They maintain that salary costs with nursing home collective bargaining agreements should be recognized as they have been negotiated.

Reported by: Elizabeth Aheart, Clerk
Reviewed by: Richard Ferrari, Assist. Clerk

Date: 3/12/2026