



Substitute Senate Bill No. 262

Special Act No. 22-12

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF HOMEMAKER-COMPANION AGENCY ISSUES.

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

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to study issues concerning homemaker-companion agencies, as such agencies are defined in section 20-670 of the general statutes. The study shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Whether any changes are necessary in qualification and registration criteria for such agencies, (2) the system for resolving complaints about such agencies and whether such system is adequate, (3) training and recruitment methods of such agencies and whether any changes are needed in such methods, (4) public awareness and education strategies that may be needed to ensure clients can locate and choose agencies providing quality services, (5) services such agencies are authorized to provide, services such agencies advertise and whether additional limitations are needed on services such agencies may advertise, and (6) best practices nation-wide to ensure quality services by such agencies.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members, provided that members appointed pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of this subsection are willing and available to serve on the task force:

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(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a client of a homemaker-companion agency, or a relative of such client, and one of whom is the chairperson of the Connecticut Chapter of the Home Care Association of America, or the chairperson's designee;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is an employee of a homemaker-companion agency who provides homemaker-companion services, and one of whom is a representative of an organization that advocates for the rights of senior citizens;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(7) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging, or the chairpersons' designees;

(8) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee; and

(9) The Long-Term Care Ombudsman, appointed pursuant to section 17a-405 of the general statutes, or the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's designee.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

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(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging and general law. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2023, whichever is later.