

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 2098

PARTIAL VETO

Synopsis as Enacted

C 508 L 93

Brief Description: Enhancing community options long-term care program.

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representative Valle; by request of Department of Social and Health Services).

House Committee on Health Care
House Committee on Appropriations

Background:

THE NEED:

The number of Washingtonians who need long-term care is growing dramatically. More than 200,000 people in this state have chronic physical or mental disabilities that prevent them from managing the basic tasks of daily life. By the year 2010, the number will grow by more than 50 percent - almost twice as fast as the state's total population. During the same 20-year period, the segment of the population estimated to need the most long-term care services, the population over the age of 85, is expected to more than double. All these people will need some form of long-term care and, as was noted in the Long-Term Care Commission's report, "consumers want a long-term care system that provides an array of services which are flexible and specialized enough to respond to the individual consumer needs."

THE LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEM:

While the number of persons served by in-home and community-based programs grew dramatically over the past 10 years, the majority of state expenditures were for formal institutional care in nursing homes. Consequently, although in-home and community residential services have absorbed most of the growth in caseloads over the past decade, they have received a relatively small share of the total growth in expenditures.

In Washington, the primary alternative for a disabled person who is no longer able to remain in his or her own home is

placement in a nursing home, particularly if the person must depend upon public financial assistance for his or her cost of care. The shortage of community residential alternatives has a number of consequences. The most common is that people continue to live with their families long after the family is able to meet the person's health and personal care needs. Often in this situation, the disabled person becomes more disabled, resulting in unwanted and inappropriate placement into a nursing home.

NURSING HOMES:

The state's Nursing Home Program provides residential health care to eligible persons who are no longer capable of independent living and require nursing services. Nursing home care is provided by 307 private facilities, containing approximately 31,000 beds. The average age of residents is 86. The average age at admission is 82 and the average length of stay is 723 days. Nursing homes receive reimbursement for services from three major sources: private payment, Medicaid, and Medicare. The majority - two-thirds of patient days - of nursing home reimbursement is provided by Medicaid. All nursing homes licensed in the state of Washington that receive Medicaid or Medicare reimbursement are required to comply with both federal and state regulations.

ASSISTED LIVING PILOT PROGRAM:

In the 1991-93 Biennium, the Legislature established an assisted living pilot program consisting of 180 assisted living units statewide -- 45 of these units are already in place at Heritage House at the Pike Place Market in Seattle. Assisted living is a housing alternative based on the concept of providing professionally delivered nursing services and personal care in an apartment-like environment. Services are provided in a way that is noninstitutional-like and strives to keep the individual independent for as long as possible.

The living units consist of personally furnished private apartments, capable of accommodating a couple, and contain a bathroom, refrigerator and cooking capacity. A minimum of 220 feet is required for the unit and it must be able to accommodate a wheelchair. The residents must also have access to common activity, eating, and laundry areas.

Licensed staff is available eight hours a day and 24 hours a day on call to assist clients in the program with personal care, health and medical-related services. Ancillary services such as assistance with cosmetology, banking, and transportation are also available.

Clients in the Assisted Living Program must be eligible for COPES or title XIX Medicaid.

Assisted living contractors are reimbursed at the rate of \$47.37 per day per client for providing this living arrangement and are regulated under existing boarding home regulations. There are no specific regulations governing assisted living facilities.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR NURSING HOMES:

The Department of Health is responsible for administering the Certificate of Need Program for a range of health and residential care facilities, including nursing homes and boarding homes. The purpose of the Certificate of Need Program is to assure the construction and development of only those new health facilities and services which promote appropriate access to needed care at a reasonable cost with high quality. The certification process covers the sale, purchase, or lease of all or part of a hospital or nursing home.

The statewide need for nursing home beds is set at 45 beds per 1,000 persons over the age of 65. The number of nursing home beds licensed in 1993 is 51 per 1,000. The process for bed allocation permits the license for nursing home beds to be moved from one location that has too many beds to an area that needs more nursing home beds. Nursing homes may now sell or buy nursing home beds on the "open market" without losing the rights to those beds. In addition, nursing home beds can be sold if the revocation of a facility's license is pending.

BOARDING HOME REGULATION:

Boarding homes provide residential care to a range of clients who are private pay or participants in programs funded through the Department of Social and Health Services. Boarding homes provide a lower level of medical care than nursing homes. The Department of Health is currently responsible for measuring the quality of care through compliance with statutes and administrative rules. The Department of Health provides annual on-site inspections, construction reviews of new facilities and complaint investigations.

CHILDREN'S LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES:

Children's long-term care services are administered within the Department of Social and Health Services; however, an

exact projection of needs and services has not been recently conducted.

Summary:

NEW LONG-TERM CARE SERVICE - ASSISTED LIVING:

A previously piloted long-term residential care option is established under boarding home regulations called "assisted living." The Department of Social and Health Services is given the authority to contract with licensed boarding homes to provide this new type of residential care and to develop and administer rules for the program. Assisted living care is required to include, at a minimum: personal care, nursing services, medication administration, and supportive services. Preference for assisted living residential care is given to clients most at risk of hospitalization, admission into a nursing home, or other out-of-home placement as a result of their functional disability.

VOLUNTARY REDUCTIONS OF NURSING HOME BEDS THROUGH CONVERSION:

Nursing homes are allowed to reduce the number of licensed beds by converting part or all of the beds to boarding home licensed assisted living units, adult day care, adult day health, respite care, hospice, or senior wellness clinics. Nursing homes that elect to convert some or all of their licensed nursing home beds to boarding home assisted living beds may retain the nursing home licensed beds in a "reserve" for the purpose of converting the beds back to nursing home beds. Those nursing homes that choose to convert their beds have four years before the boarding home assisted living beds must either be reconverted back to licensed nursing home beds or remain as boarding home assisted living beds. Only those nursing homes that have been in continuous operation and have not been purchased or leased may qualify to hold their licensed nursing home beds in "reserve." Provisions are established for converting beds held in reserve back to nursing home beds.

REDUCTION OF NURSING HOME BEDS THROUGH CERTIFICATION MODIFICATIONS:

The process for determining certificates of need for new or replacement nursing home beds is modified to require the Department of Health to take into consideration the availability of: (1) other nursing home beds in the area, and (2) the availability of non-nursing home alternative services in the community, with the assistance of the Department of Social and Health Services. No new nursing home beds may be built and licensed before these two

conditions are assessed. Nursing homes that choose to replace an existing facility with a new one will not be required to justify the need in the community for the nursing home beds if the nursing home has operated in the same nursing home and in the same area for more than one year. Nursing homes that close are allowed to retain the beds and sell them, if they choose, for up to eight years after the nursing home closes.

CHILDREN AND LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES:

The secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services is required to accomplish the following:

- o Consult with relevant qualified professionals to develop a set of minimum guidelines to be used for identifying all children who are in a state-assisted at-home or out-of-home support system and who are likely to need long-term care or assistance due to physical, emotional, medical, mental, or other long-term challenges;
- o Develop, by January 1, 1995, children's long-term care programs that address the educational, physical, emotional, mental, and medical needs of children under long-term care;
- o Conduct an evaluation of all children within the foster care agency caseload to identify those children in need of long-term care services as defined in the act;
- o Study and develop a comprehensive plan for the evaluation and identification of all children and youth in need of long-term care or assistance including the mentally ill, developmentally disabled, medically fragile, seriously, emotionally or behaviorally disabled, and physically impaired;
- o Study and develop a plan for the children and youth in need of long-term care or assistance to ensure the coordination of services;
- o Study and develop guidelines for transitional services between long-term care programs;
- o Study and develop a statutory proposal for the emancipation of minors and report the findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 1994; and

- o Develop a plan by July 1, 1994 that will establish the size of each residential habilitation center by July 1, 2001.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	95	0	
Senate	37	7	(Senate amended)
House	98	0	(House concurred)

Effective: May 18, 1993

Partial Veto Summary: The veto eliminates the requirement that the Department of Social and Health Services develop a plan that addresses the size and quality of care of each Residential Habitation Center serving the developmentally disabled. (See VETO MESSAGE)