

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESHB 2774

As Passed House:

February 13, 1998

Title: An act relating to an advisory committee on matters relating to the regulation of adult family homes.

Brief Description: Creating an advisory committee on matters relating to the regulation of adult family homes.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Backlund, Kastama, Sterk, Wood, O'Brien, Lambert, Zellinsky, Cody, McCune, Smith, Van Luven and Costa).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 1/30/98, 2/3/98 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/13/98, 98-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Dyer, Chairman; Backlund, Vice Chairman; Skinner, Vice Chairman; Cody, Ranking Minority Member; Murray, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson; Conway; Parlette; Sherstad; Wood and Zellinsky.

Staff: Antonio Sanchez (786-7383).

Background: Adult family homes are regular neighborhood residences providing care for two to six residents. The owner of the adult family home, or staff hired by the owner, provide the care. They provide room, board, laundry, necessary supervision, assistance with activities of daily living, personal care and social services. Nursing services can be provided in the home. Adult family homes are licensed, regulated and inspected by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). The state has approximately 2,300 adult family homes providing services to almost 8,000 clients. Of the total adult family home caseload, approximately 3,000 are state clients. Adult family home care has been part of the state's long-term care system for over 27 years.

The DSHS has the authority to establish advisory committees and currently has a functioning adult family home advisory committee that has worked on licensing and training issues. The advisory committee has diverse representation from various long-term care providers including some adult family home owners.

Summary of Bill: The secretary of the Department of Health is required to appoint an advisory committee, in consultation with the DSHS, on matters relating to the regulation of administrative rules, enforcement process, staffing, and training requirements of adult family homes. The advisory committee is composed of six members. Three of the members must be consumers and three are facility providers who provide services to the developmentally disabled, the mentally ill, or persons with dementia. The chair of the committee must represent the public. Terms for the selection of members and duration of membership on the board are specified. The advisory committee is established in addition to already existing advisory committees in both the Department of Social and Health Services and the Department of Health. The advisory committee is given the authority to establish meetings. Each member of the advisory committee must serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: Adult family homes need the ability to more fully advise the DSHS and the DOH on regulatory matters and provide more formal and balanced input.

Testified: Bill Day, Adult Family Home Association (pro w/amendment); John Therrien, Community Homes (pro); Marti Morin (pro); and Pat Lashway, Department of Social and Health Services.