
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2774

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

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)

Read first time 02/03/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to an advisory committee on matters relating to the
2 regulation of adult family homes; adding new sections to chapter 18.48
3 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 70.128 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 18.48 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 Adult family homes have developed rapidly in response to the health
8 and social needs of the aging population in community settings,
9 especially as the aging population has increased in proportion to the
10 general population. The growing demand for elder care with a new focus
11 on issues affecting senior citizens, including persons with
12 developmental disabilities, mental illness, or dementia, has prompted
13 a growing professionalization of adult family home providers to address
14 quality care and quality of life issues consistent with standards of
15 accountability and regulatory safeguards for the health and safety of
16 the residents. The establishment of an advisory committee to the
17 department of health and the department of social and health services
18 under section 2 of this act formalizes a stable process for discussing
19 and considering these issues among residents and their advocates,

1 regulatory officials, and adult family home providers. The dialogue
2 among all stakeholders interested in maintaining a healthy option for
3 the aging population in community settings assures the highest regard
4 for the well-being of these residents within a benign and functional
5 regulatory environment.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.48 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The secretary, in consultation with the secretary of social and
9 health services, shall appoint an advisory committee on matters
10 relating to the regulation of adult family homes. The advisory
11 committee shall be composed of six members, of which two members shall
12 be resident advocates, three members shall represent adult family home
13 providers, and one member shall represent the public and serve as
14 chair. The members shall generally represent the interests of aging
15 residents, residents with dementia, residents with mental illness, and
16 residents with developmental disabilities respectively. Members
17 representing adult family home providers must have at least two years'
18 experience as licensees. The membership must generally reflect urban
19 and rural areas and western and eastern parts of the state. A member
20 may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

21 (2) The secretary may remove a member of the advisory committee for
22 cause as specified by rule adopted by the department. If there is a
23 vacancy, the secretary shall appoint a member to serve for the
24 remainder of the unexpired term.

25 (3) The advisory committee shall meet at the times and places
26 designated by the secretary and shall hold meetings during the year as
27 necessary to provide advice to the secretary on matters relating to the
28 regulation of adult family homes. A majority of the members may
29 request a meeting of the committee for any express purpose directly
30 related to the regulation of adult family homes. A majority of members
31 currently serving shall constitute a quorum.

32 (4) The advisory committee shall serve in addition to all other
33 advisory activities that the department of social and health services
34 deems necessary to develop and implement its programs.

35 (5) Each member of the advisory committee shall serve without
36 compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses as authorized in
37 RCW 43.03.060.

1 (6) The secretary, members of the advisory committee, or
2 individuals acting on their behalf are immune from civil liability for
3 official acts performed in the course of their duties.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 70.128 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 Adult family homes have developed rapidly in response to the health
7 and social needs of the aging population in community settings,
8 especially as the aging population has increased in proportion to the
9 general population. The growing demand for elder care with a new focus
10 on issues affecting senior citizens, including persons with
11 developmental disabilities, mental illness, or dementia, has prompted
12 a growing professionalization of adult family home providers to address
13 quality care and quality of life issues consistent with standards of
14 accountability and regulatory safeguards for the health and safety of
15 the residents. The establishment of an advisory committee to the
16 department of health and the department of social and health services
17 under section 2 of this act formalizes a stable process for discussing
18 and considering these issues among residents and their advocates,
19 regulatory officials, and adult family home providers. The dialogue
20 among all stakeholders interested in maintaining a healthy option for
21 the aging population in community settings assures the highest regard
22 for the well-being of these residents within a benign and functional
23 regulatory environment. The secretary shall be advised by an advisory
24 committee on adult family homes established under section 2 of this
25 act.

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