
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6583

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Morton, Wojahn, Deccio, Franklin, Winsley, Wood and Jacobsen)

Read first time 02/02/98.

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) Each member of the advisory committee shall serve without
33 compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses as authorized in
34 RCW 43.03.060.

35 (5) The secretary, members of the advisory committee, or
36 individuals acting on their behalf are immune from civil liability for
37 official acts performed in the course of their duties.

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

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

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