
SENATE BILL 6583

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Morton, Wojahn, Deccio, Franklin, Winsley, Wood and Jacobsen

Read first time 01/22/98. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

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

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Adult family homes have developed rapidly in
6 response to the health and social needs of the aging population in
7 community settings, especially as the aging population has increased in
8 proportion to the general population. The growing demand for elder
9 care with a new focus on issues affecting senior citizens, including
10 persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness, or dementia,
11 has prompted a growing professionalization of adult family home
12 providers to address quality care and quality of life issues consistent
13 with standards of accountability and regulatory safeguards for the
14 health and safety of the residents. The establishment of an advisory
15 committee to the department of social and health services formalizes a
16 stable process for discussing and considering these issues among
17 residents and their advocates, regulatory officials, and adult family
18 home providers. The dialogue among all stakeholders interested in
19 maintaining a healthy option for the aging population in community

1 settings assures the highest regard for the well-being of these
2 residents within a benign and functional regulatory environment.

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

5 (1) The secretary shall appoint an advisory committee on matters
6 relating to the regulation of adult family homes. The advisory
7 committee shall be composed of twelve members, of which six members
8 shall be resident advocates, and six members shall represent adult
9 family home providers serving aging residents, residents with dementia,
10 residents with mental illness, and residents with developmental
11 disabilities respectively. Members representing adult family home
12 providers must have at least two years' experience as licensees. The
13 membership must generally reflect urban and rural areas and western and
14 eastern parts of the state. A member may not serve more than two
15 consecutive terms. The members shall elect a chairperson annually from
16 among the membership for a one-year term.

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

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

28 (4) Each member of the advisory committee shall serve without
29 compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses as authorized in
30 RCW 43.03.060.

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

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