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SENATE BILL 6641

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Wood, Fairley, Swecker and Winsley

Read first time 01/26/98. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to a pilot project for third-party accreditation of  
2 boarding homes; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes the need to  
5 involve the boarding home industry, the consumers of assisted living  
6 and retirement services, the long-term care ombudsman, and state  
7 regulatory agencies in the collaborative process of developing  
8 standards and procedures for accreditation of licensed boarding homes.  
9 As participants, consumers can help develop standards that more closely  
10 address their needs and make the accreditation of boarding home  
11 providers more meaningful to them when choosing among competitors.  
12 Providers can maintain flexibility in the marketplace and more quickly  
13 recognize and respond to the changing needs of its client base.  
14 Regulatory agencies can save money and remain assured that performance  
15 standards are high. For these reasons, the legislature finds that it  
16 is in the best interests of the boarding home industry, boarding home  
17 consumers, and state regulatory agencies to support an industry-funded  
18 pilot program prior to changing or developing new standards for  
19 boarding home regulation.

1 (2) A coalition of assisted living providers represented by state-  
2 wide assisted living professional trade associations, the long-term  
3 care ombudsman, state regulatory agencies, and consumer groups  
4 representing, but not limited to, the assisted living clientele such as  
5 the senior lobby, the American association of retired persons, and the  
6 alzheimer's association shall develop a plan for implementing a pilot  
7 program for the third-party accreditation of boarding homes licensed  
8 under RCW 18.20.020. The pilot plan must be funded by the assisted  
9 living federation of America. The plan shall review the overall  
10 feasibility of implementation, cost or savings to the regulating  
11 agency, impact on client health, safety, quality of care, quality of  
12 life, and financial and other impacts to the boarding home industry.  
13 The pilot third-party boarding home accreditation plan shall be  
14 presented to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives  
15 and the senate by January 4, 1999.

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