

5918

Sponsor(s): Senator Wood

Brief Title: Revising regulation of long-term care.

SB 5918 - DIGEST

Finds that the division of state oversight of long-term care facilities between two different state agencies has led to inconsistent monitoring and is not an effective, efficient use of state resources. These state responsibilities should be combined and coordinated within one state agency.

Finds that the quality of staff in long-term care facilities is often the key to good care. The need for well-trained staff and well-managed facilities, is growing as the state's population ages and the acuity of the health care problems of residents increases. To better protect and care for residents, the legislature directs that the training standards for facility caregiver staff must be enhanced, and that staff serving residents with special needs, such as mental illness or dementia, must receive additional training.

Transfers the powers and duties of the department of health and the secretary of health under chapter 18.20 RCW, boarding homes, and the related programs, services, and management and support services, presently administered by the department of health are hereby transferred to the department of social and health services.