

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2824

As Reported by House Committee On:

Health Care

Title: An act relating to conflict of interest provisions for the long-term care ombudsman program.

Brief Description: Revising conflict of interest provisions for the long-term care ombudsman program.

Sponsors: Representatives Skinner, Edwards and Chase.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/8/02 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Long-term care ombudsmen cannot have been employed in a long-term care facility or a governmental agency that regulates long-term care facilities within the past year.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Schual-Berke, Vice Chair; Campbell, Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Ballasiotes, Benson, Conway, Darneille, Edwards, Ruderman and Skinner.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

Long-term care ombudsmen cannot have been employed in a long-term care facility or have had a pecuniary interest in a long-term care facility within the past three years. There is no period of ineligibility for a person who was employed in a governmental position involving licensing, certification, or regulation from becoming a long-term care ombudsman.

Summary of Bill:

A period of ineligibility of one year is established for individuals interested in becoming a long-term care ombudsman if they (1) were employed or involved in the management of a long-term care facility; (2) were employed in a governmental position involving licensing, certification, or regulation of long-term care facilities; or (3) had a significant ownership or investment interest in a long-term care facility. A long-term care ombudsman is prohibited from being assigned to a long-term care facility if they have an immediate family member living there.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This bill will provide consistency and uniformity for individuals wishing to become long-term care ombudsmen.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Kary Hyre, Long-term Care Ombudsman; and Pat Lashway, Department of Social and Health Services.