

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5291

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Health & Long-Term Care, February 14, 2001

**Title:** An act relating to immunizations at long-term care facilities.

**Brief Description:** Requiring certain immunizations of staff and residents of long-term care facilities.

**Sponsors:** Senators Costa, Winsley, Franklin and Fraser.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Health & Long-Term Care: 1/29/01, 2/14/01 [DPS].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5291 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Thibaudeau, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Costa, Deccio, Fraser and Winsley.

**Staff:** Rhoda Donkin (786-7198)

**Background:** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend all persons 65 and older, and others in high risk groups be immunized annually for influenza and pneumococcal disease. Several states require residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities be offered immunization for these illnesses.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** Nursing homes, boarding homes, and adult family homes are required to offer access to immunizations for pneumococcal disease and influenza to all residents and employees on an annual basis. The vaccinations may be offered on-site or elsewhere. Long-term care facilities are required to inform employees and residents verbally and in writing of the benefits of these vaccinations.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The original bill was not considered.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

**Testimony For:** These vaccines save lives. They should be available in any setting where the majority of people are at risk for dangerous repercussions from these diseases.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** PRO: Jerry Reilly, WHCA; Bruce Reeves, Senior Lobby; Ann Simons, Wyeth-Ayerst.