

**SB 5144 - DIGEST**

Finds that: (1) The intent of our state's certificate of need is to be responsive to the changing health and social conditions of our aging population and to ensure access to quality long-term care services.

(2) Married couples currently use state licensed residential long-term care facilities at a lower rate than the general population. Married couples may be unable to continue to live together when one needs skilled nursing care.

(3) In order to be more responsive to changing health and social conditions of our state aging population, the criteria of awarding a certificate of need must be changed to encourage the maintenance of elder families in our state long-term care facilities and ensure access to those facilities that meet the needs of all people.