

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2824

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### As Passed Legislature

**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:** By Representatives Skinner, Edwards and Chase.

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

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

#### Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/14/02, 98-0.

Passed Senate: 3/8/02, 48-0.

Passed Legislature.

### 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.

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### 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.

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**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.

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**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.