
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5652

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Costa, Winsley, Thibaudeau, Deccio, B. Sheldon, Prentice, Fraser, Kohl-Welles and Fairley)

READ FIRST TIME 03/08/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the quality of in-home long-term care
2 services provided by state funded individual providers; amending RCW
3 74.39A.005; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.39A.005 and 2000 c 121 s 9 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The legislature finds that the aging of the population and advanced
8 medical technology have resulted in a growing number of persons who
9 require assistance. The primary resource for long-term care continues
10 to be family and friends. However, these traditional caregivers are
11 increasingly employed outside the home. There is a growing demand for
12 improvement and expansion of home and community-based long-term care
13 services to support and complement the services provided by these
14 informal caregivers.

15 The legislature further finds that the public interest would best
16 be served by ~~((a broad))~~ an array of long-term care services that
17 support persons who need such services at home or in the community
18 whenever practicable and that promote individual autonomy, dignity, and
19 choice. An integrated long-term care system provided through a

1 continuum of care is the most effective means of providing quality
2 long-term care services to the residents of Washington state. The
3 services provided should be based upon consumer choice and care needs,
4 within available resources, with consumers moving through the continuum
5 as their needs change. Each service included in the long-term care
6 services continuum, including informal caregiver support, in-home
7 services provided through individual providers or home care agencies,
8 residential care, and nursing home care, plays an important role in the
9 continuum of care.

10 The legislature finds that as other long-term care options become
11 more available, the relative need for nursing homes (~~beds~~) or
12 institutional settings is likely to decline. The legislature
13 recognizes, however, that nursing home care will continue to be a
14 critical part of the state's long-term care options, and that such
15 services should promote individual dignity, autonomy, and a homelike
16 environment.

17 The legislature finds that many recipients of in-home services are
18 vulnerable and their health and well-being are dependent on their
19 caregivers. The quality, skills, and knowledge of their caregivers are
20 often the key to good care. The legislature finds that the need for
21 well-trained caregivers is growing as the state's population ages and
22 clients' needs increase. The legislature intends that current training
23 standards be enhanced.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The Washington state institute for public
25 policy shall study the experience of at least two states that have
26 established arrangements that enable individual providers of home care
27 services to collectively bargain the terms of their employment. For
28 each collective bargaining arrangement examined, the study shall
29 describe the arrangement's origin, organization, functions, operating
30 costs, financing, and legal relationship to state government and to
31 individual providers of home care service. The study shall also
32 include an assessment of what impact each such arrangement has had upon
33 the availability and quality of home care services; the compensation
34 and working conditions of the workers who provide them; the public cost
35 of those services; and consumer and provider satisfaction with the
36 arrangement. The institute shall report its findings to the fiscal,

1 health care, and labor and commerce committees of the legislature by
2 November 15, 2001.

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