

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SB 6373

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Health Care

**Title:** An act relating to reporting to the legislature of holding a boarding home medicaid eligible resident's room or unit.

**Brief Description:** Removing expiration of reporting to the legislature of holding a boarding home medicaid eligible resident's room or unit.

**Sponsors:** Senators Keiser, Deccio, Zarelli and Spanel.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care: 2/21/06 [DPA].

**Brief Summary of Bill**  
**(As Amended by House Committee)**

- Removes the expiration date of the current boarding home bed hold policy.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Campbell, Vice Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Hinkle, Ranking Minority Member; Curtis, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Appleton, Bailey, Clibborn, Condotta, Green, Lantz, Moeller, Schual-Berke and Skinner.

**Staff:** Dave Knutson (786-7146).

**Background:**

Under existing law, boarding homes contracting to provide adult residential care (ARC), enhanced adult residential care (EARC), or assisted living (AL) services must hold a Medicaid resident's bed or unit up to 20 days when short-term care is needed in a nursing home or hospital, the resident is likely to return to the boarding home, and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) pays the boarding home to hold the bed or unit.

During the first seven days of a resident's absence, the per day bed or unit hold compensation is 70 percent of the daily rate paid. The rate for the eighth through twentieth day is established by rule but cannot be less than \$10 per day.

The boarding home may seek third-party payment to hold a bed or unit from the twenty-first day onward. The third-party payment cannot exceed the Medicaid daily rate paid to the facility for the resident.

The current bed hold policy is set to expire on June 30, 2006.

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**Summary of Amended Bill:**

Removes the expiration date of the current bed hold policy, and deletes a reporting requirement by DSHS.

**Amended Bill Compared to Original Bill:**

The requirement that DSHS provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature in December 2005, is removed.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date of Amended Bill:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The current boarding home bed hold policy is working and should be continued.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Persons Testifying:** Senator Keiser, prime sponsor; Kathy Marshall, Department of Social and Health Services; Jonathan Eames, Washington Health Care Association; and Julie Peterson, Washington Association of Housing and Services for the Aging.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.