SA12-006

SB0138

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JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

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2012
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CHAIRMEN: Senator Prague
Senator Harp
Representative Serra
Representative Cook
Representative Ritter

MEMBERS PRESENT:
SENATORS: Prague, Harp, Kelly

REPRESENTATIVES: Serra, Frey, Cook, Aldarando, Betts, Floren, Steinberg, Tallarita, Villano

SENATOR PRAGUE: Well, we have lots of interesting bills on our agenda for this hearing this morning, and I'm glad to see many of you here. Our committee really is the focal point of developing policies for the growing elderly population. So having said that, okay, I don't see Pam Gianini. Okay, Pam, you're first on the list, and then Nancy Schaefer, but I understand Nancy is having trouble finding a parking place. Oh, there she is. Okay. You found one, good. Pam? The first our will be devoted to public -- to private -- to public officials, and then we'll go to the public, to the citizens.

PAMELA GIANNINI: Good morning, Senator Prague, Representative Serra and distinguished members of the Aging Committee. My name is Pam Giannini, and I serve as the Director of the Bureau of Aging, Community and Social Work Services, as well as the Director of the State Unit on Aging at the Department of Social Services. I am here to testify on a numbers of bills that impact the department. I think you have a copy of my testimony in front of you.

SB138
SB142
SB143
HB5179
HB5215

First is S.B. NO. 138 - AN ACT ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO STUDY "AGING IN PLACE."

This bill proposes to establish a task force that appears to duplicate the mission of the current Long-Term Care Planning Committee established in 1998 by the legislature. The Long-Term Care Planning Committee is composed to executive agency representatives, as well as chairs and ranking members of several legislative committees. Furthermore, the legislature established the Long Term Care Advisor Council to advise the Planning Committee, which is composed of a mix of two independent state agencies; the Commission on Aging and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Office and various long-term care industry, labor and elderly stakeholder groups. Over the years, both entities have added members so that the Planning Committee currently has 23 members and the Advisory Council has 27.

The Planning Committee's original charge was to create a long-term care plan for the elderly and to study a variety of elderly-related issues, which was later expanded to include all persons with disabilities. The Committee has produced a number of plans to address at least three of the components of the long-term care system; home and community-based services, supportive housing and nursing facilities. In addition, the Planning Committee oversaw the development of an extensive and comprehensive study of these issues. Therefore, if the legislature believes there are additional issues with regard to long-term-care planning that need to be addressed, they would be more appropriately addressed by the Long-Term Care Planning Committee.

A similar bill was proposed last year but this

year's version substitutes the Commission on Aging to perform the Task Force's administrative functions rather than the staff of the Aging Committee. The Commission on Aging, as the chair of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council, has already begun working with the Planning Committee to draft the next three-year plan which must be submitted in January 2013 to the General Assembly.

Similarly, the State Unit on Aging located within the Department of Social Services will also be preparing for a September 2013 release date of its three-year State Plan on Aging, another highly involved process which covers many of the issue areas identified in the bill. Therefore, much of the work identified in the bill is duplicative of existing efforts. Also, the time constraints in the proposed legislation are not reasonable given the department's experience with the amount of time, effort and resources required to produce such a study.

The next bill is S.B. NO. 142 - AN ACT INCREASING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY.

This proposed bill would increase the asset limit for an individual applying for the Home Care Program by 47 percent and would increase the asset limit for couples by 71 percent. This change would also set a fixed asset limit in statute where currently the statute ties the asset the limit to the community spouses protected amount determined by the federal government so that each year the amount changes accordingly.

Raising the asset limit would open the program to a much larger pool of applicants. We would caution that if the demand were to exceed the

PAMELA GIANNINI: I appreciate your comments, Senator. I think the biggest concern with both programs is the impact on those people that are of a lower income if you don't increase the overall allocation to the program. So if you leave the allocation at one point to a million dollars and then broaden who is eligible for it, that lessens the amount that's available in general to the population. So if you want to serve a broader population, the overall allocation to the program has to be increased as well as the eligibility requirements. That's, basically, the point of the testimony, and we have to bring that to the Appropriation Committee.

SENATOR PRAGUE: The Committee would be sending this bill to Appropriations.

PAMELA GIANNINI: Right. That's what our cautionary indication is with the testimony.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Representative Steinberg?

REP. STEINBERG: Thank you, Senator Prague. I hope we'll have an opportunity before we actually bring this forward to Appropriations, assuming that we do so, to better understand how the programs are being used, the Respite Program, the Alzheimer's Program. I'd be willing just to hear how we -- how well we have served those who have taken advantage of these programs and whether your, your surmise that we would be limiting access to lower income is, indeed, the case broadly, but my question is really with regard to S.B. 138 - Aging in Place.

I understand your concerns about the redundancy and the opportunity to give those who have already been focused on this an opportunity to follow through. Are you

satisfied with the status quo so to speak in Aging in Place or do you have a better solution that might incorporate our desire to make sure this is enshrined in the statute?

PAMELA GIANNINI: Well, as the director of the State Unit on Aging a the Department of Social Services, personally, I think there can't be enough done for our older population. And as the tsunami of older people in Connecticut when we have a great number that are approaching, we really do have to prepare for helping people to age in place, and Connecticut is doing a valiant job of it as we move forward, but I think we need to concentrate our efforts more. And I think the state plan, the long-term care plan on again is a great document to look for, and we can add to that. I think that there is an ability for the legislature to make its needs known to that committee so they can incorporate what's needed so those things can be addressed in that plan and to the Advisory Committee and also through the State Plan on Aging that the State Unit on Aging works on every three to four years, and that's being revised for 2013.

So I think there is, there is work being done. We collaborate together on all those committees, and I think that with money follows the person. If other programs that we're working on, we are doing a lot better at providing services in the home community for people and providing assistance in the home where people want to be.

REP. STEINBERG: Thank you.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Thank you, Representative Steinberg. Any other questions for any committee members?

HB5179

DEB POLUN: For the record, my name is Deb Polun. I'm the legislative director for the Connecticut Commission on Aging. And, as you know, the Connecticut Commission on Aging is the nonpartisan state agency that's part of the state legislature, and we're devoted to preparing our state for a significantly-changed demographic and to enhance the lives of present and future generations of older adults.

I have submitted written testimony, and I just want to comment today on a couple of the bills that are in the written testimony, but I won't take up too much of your time.

First is Senate Bill 137. This is the Fear of Retaliation bill and Brian and Nancy spoke so much more eloquently than I can about this issue, but just so that you know, this is a real issue in nursing homes, and the Commission on Aging thanks the committee for identifying this critical issue again this year. As you may remember, the bill did garner broad support last year, and we would urge you to support the bill once again. And I'll also just also note that O of A last year indicated that this bill would have zero fiscal impact so I know that's also always important as well. So we would ask for your support of that bill.

SENATE BILL 138 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY "AGING IN PLACE."

I would echo the comments of Pam Giannini about this bill. The Commission on Aging has been committed to helping individuals age in place for the entirety of our existence, about 18 years, and we lead these efforts through our roles as the co-chairmen of the Money Follows the Person Steering Committee and co-

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SB142
SB143
HB5215

chair and manager of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council, which Pam spoke with you about. And the Advisory Council, as you know, collaborates with the Planning Committee which creates every three years a state-wide long-term care plan. It's a comprehensive plan. The last one was released last January, and the next one is being worked on right now, and it's scheduled for release next January which would put it in line with the timeline envisioned in this bill.

I also wanted to know that the General Assembly mandated and funded a couple of years ago a very comprehensive long-term care needs assessment. That was conducted by the current health center, Center on Aging, the most comprehensive needs assessment that's ever been conducted in our country. And it puts forward about 17 different recommendations that help with long-term care services and support and recommends specific action steps for Aging in Place.

Therefore, respectfully, we believe that the creasing of a new task force would be duplicative and not necessary at this time. The issue has been well studied, and it is starting to garner some broad support, both on the administrative side and the legislative side, and we'd like to just see some action now on the many plans that are already in place in our state.

SENATE BILL 139 - AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STABILITY OF NURSING HOME FACILITIES AND MANAGED RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES TO PATIENTS AND RESIDENTS.

We support this bill, which, as you know, is a priority of the Long-Term Care Ombudsmen and the Resident Council. It's just to provide

MAG MORELLI: Good morning.

SENATOR PRAGUE: Good morning.

MAG MORELLI: Nice to see you Senator Prague, Representative Serra, members of the Aging Committee. My name is Mag Morelli, and I am the president of LeadingAge Connecticut, a membership organization representing over 130 mission-driven and not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of care. LeadingAge Connecticut was formerly named the Connecticut Association of Not-for-Profit Providers for the Aging or CANPFA.

On behalf of LeadingAge I would like to testify on several of the bills that are before you today. I've actually submitted testimony on several. I'll just speak to a couple, and we'd like to offer the committee our assistance as you consider these various issues throughout the session.

SENATE BILL 137 - AN ACT CONCERNING FEAR OF RETALIATION TRAINING IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES.

We support the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Office and the Statewide Resident Council's proposal to incorporate the fear of retaliation training into the annual in-service training requirements for skilled nursing employees. We would respectfully suggest that a one-hour minimum training on this topic may be an excessive minimum period of time for employees who have been trained in pervious years, particularly since this applies to all employees at the nursing home and not just direct care employees.

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SB139
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SB143
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SB178

An Act -- on 138 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AGING IN PLACE.

And I understand the previous testimony regarding another task force, but we support the concept because many of our state's efforts in this area have been focused on the Medicaid program and the Money Follows the Person Program. And it is important to expand our focus and develop a better understanding of how we meet the aging needs of everyone within our community.

We do support Senate Bill 139 on the notification of financial stability.

An Act Concerning the Grievance Committee in Nursing Facilities. I just want to thank the committee for incorporating some of our suggestions from last year on this bill.

And we, of course, support any, any effort you can to increase the support for the Home Care Program and the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program, but on SENATE BILL 176 - AN ACT CONCERNING AIR CONDITIONING IN NURSING HOMES, we cannot support this bill as written. The bill proposes to mandate that within a little more than a year all nursing homes must have air conditioning systems in all resident rooms. It's our opinion that this mandate is overreaching and will impose an expensive requirement on many nursing homes that already have adequate cooling systems and emergency hot weather plans but that do not specifically have air conditioning systems in every resident room.

SB142
SB143

The concern should be that every nursing home has an adequate coloring or climate control system to provide for the comfort, health and safety of the residents and an adequate plan

T4

Testimony to the Aging Committee

Presented by Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut

February 28, 2012

Regarding

- **Senate Bill 137, An Act Concerning Fear of Retaliation Training in Nursing Home Facilities**
- **Senate Bill 138, An Act Establishing a Task Force To Study "Aging in Place"**
- **Senate Bill 139, An Act Concerning Notification of Financial Stability of Nursing Home Facilities and Managed Residential Communities to Patients and Residents**
- **Senate Bill 140, An Act Concerning Grievance Committees in Nursing Home Facilities**
- **Senate Bill 142, An Act Increasing Eligibility for the Connecticut Home-care Program for the Elderly**
- **Senate Bill 143, An Act Increasing Eligibility and Funding for the Alzheimer Respite Care Program**
- **Senate Bill 176, An Act Concerning Air Conditioning in Nursing Homes**
- **Senate Bill 177, An Act Concerning Liability of Nursing Home Owners for Neglect and Abuse of Nursing Home Residents**
- **Senate Bill 178, An Act Concerning Income Tax Deductions for Long-term Care Insurance Premiums**
- **House Bill 5215, An Act Increasing the Personal Needs Allowance**

Good morning Senator Prague, Representative Serra, and members of the Aging Committee. My name is Mag Morelli and I am the president of LeadingAge Connecticut, a membership organization representing over 130 mission-driven and not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of long term care. (LeadingAge Connecticut was formerly named the *Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers for the Aging or CANPFA.*)

Our members are sponsored by religious, fraternal, community, and governmental organizations that are committed to providing quality care and services to their residents and clients. Our member organizations, many of which have served their communities for generations, are dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging

On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut, I would like to testify on several of the bills that are before you today and offer the Committee our assistance as you consider these various issues.

Senate Bill 137, An Act Concerning Fear of Retaliation Training in Nursing Home Facilities

We support the Long Term Care Ombudsman's Office and the Statewide Resident Council's proposal to incorporate fear of retaliation training into the annual in-service training requirements for skilled nursing employees, but would respectfully suggest that a one hour minimum training on this topic may be an excessive minimum time period for employees who have been trained in previous years. The Committee should also note that this requirement is being proposed for all employees and not just direct care employees.

Senate Bill 138, An Act Establishing A Task Force to Study Aging in Place

LeadingAge Connecticut promotes a vision in which every community offers an integrated and coordinated continuum of high quality and affordable long term health care, housing and community based services – including services and supports beyond the health care continuum. So we support the concept of this study which will broaden our understanding of the needs of our older population as they strive to maintain their independence and "age in place." Many of our state's efforts in this area have been focused on the Medicaid program and it is important to expand our focus and develop a better understanding of how we can meet the aging needs of everyone within our communities.

Senate Bill 139, An Act Concerning Notification of Financial Stability of Nursing Home Facilities and Managed Residential Communities to Patients and Residents

LeadingAge Connecticut supports the concept of transparency and informed decision making and we do not object to this bill.

Senate Bill 140, An Act Concerning Grievance Committees in Nursing Home Facilities

The proposed language of this bill reflects suggestions made by LeadingAge Connecticut when the concept was proposed last session and we appreciate the Committee making those changes. We continue to have a concern that it may be difficult to find a resident capable of serving on such a committee in every nursing home. In such cases, we would suggest that the nursing home be able to consult with the Ombudsman's office and be permitted to offer an alternative committee structure.

For the committee's information, current law, Resident Bill of Rights 19a-550(b)(5) and (6), provides that a resident "may voice grievances...free from restraint, discrimination, etc.." The resident also has the right to "have prompt efforts made by the facility to resolve grievances the patient may have, including

T3

A nonpartisan research and public policy office of the Connecticut General Assembly

Testimony of

Debra Polun, Legislative Director
Connecticut Commission on Aging

Committee on Aging

February 28, 2012

Good morning and thank you for this opportunity to comment on a number of bills before you today.

As you know, the Connecticut Commission on Aging is the nonpartisan state agency devoted to preparing Connecticut for a significantly changed demographic and enhancing the lives of the present and future generations of older adults. For almost twenty years, the Commission has served as an effective leader in statewide efforts to promote choice, independence and dignity for Connecticut's older adults and persons with disabilities. I'd like to thank this committee for its ongoing leadership and collaboration in these efforts.

In these difficult budget times, research-based initiatives, statewide planning efforts, vision and creative thinking are all needed. The Connecticut Commission on Aging stands ready to assist our state in finding solutions to our fiscal problems, while keeping commitments to critical programs and services.

Senate Bill 137: An Act Concerning Fear of Retaliation Training in Nursing Home Facilities
~CoA supports

CoA thanks this Committee and Nancy Shaffer, our state's Long-Term Care Ombudsman, for identifying this critical issue again this year. This bill garnered broad support last year and we urge you to support it once again.

Fear of retaliation is a real issue for residents of nursing homes, who are often afraid to exercise their rights. Imagine if you were reliant on someone else to schedule your showers, bring your meals and change your sheets. If an issue arose – for example, if you were upset that your medications were wrong or late – you might want to complain, and it would certainly be your right to do so. However, many residents bravely have come forward, indicating that complaining about one issue often has led to them receiving substandard care. Nancy's work with nursing home residents and staff has uncovered that staff are sometimes unaware that they respond in this fashion.

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LTC website: www.ct.gov/longtermcare

SB138 SB139
SB 140 SB142
SB 143 SB176
HB5215

This bill would require staff to be trained and could help reduce staff's tendency to retaliate. CoA believes this type of training would be valuable and not pose a burden for nursing facilities in our state.

Senate Bill 138: An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study "Aging in Place"
~ CoA Informs

Like you, the CoA is committed to helping individuals age in place; in fact, this has been the core of our work for the past 18 years. We lead such efforts in part through our role as co-chair the Money Follows the Person Steering Committee and co-chair and manager of the legislatively mandated Long-Term Care Advisory Council (CGS §17b-338). The Advisory Council is composed of consumers, providers, advocates and independent state entities and meets about nine times annually to discuss ongoing state efforts in the area of long-term care.

In addition, the Advisory Council collaborates with the Long-Term Care Planning Committee to develop a comprehensive statewide Long-Term Care Plan every three years. The Planning Committee (CGS §17b-337) is composed of designees from a variety of state agencies and is currently chaired by OPM. The most recent Plan, released in January 2010, is titled *"Balancing the System: Working Toward Real Choice in the Long-Term Care System."* The plan continues to address the development and maintenance of a consumer-driven system of long-term services and supports across the lifespan and across all disabilities with the focus on informed choice, least restrictive and most appropriate setting, and community inclusion. We are in the midst of developing the next Plan, to be released in January of 2013 – the same timeframe as the report envisioned in this bill. The new Plan will incorporate data garnered from our state's experience with the Money Follows the Person program.

Additionally, in 2006 and 2007, the CGA mandated and funded – while the CoA oversaw – a LTC Needs Assessment, conducted by the UConn Health Center, Center on Aging which was exceedingly comprehensive with multiple components, wide-ranging issues, and a series of recommendations.

Therefore, we respectfully believe that the creation of a new task force to conduct this same type of work is not necessary at this time. The issue of helping people age in place has been well studied both in Connecticut and across the nation, and we are armed with a series of data-driven recommendations specific to our state. One alternative to the current proposal is to modify the authorizing statute for the Planning Committee to require implementation of the Plan, including a timeline. We would be most pleased to continue to work with this Committee and other policymakers to help realize the implementation of the Plan and other recommendations around aging in place.

Senate Bill 139: An Act Concerning Notification of Financial Stability of Nursing Home Facilities and Managed Residential Communities to Patients and Residents
~CoA supports

This proposal, a priority of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, empowers nursing home and managed residential community residents, potential residents and their families by providing them with information about the facilities' placement into receivership or application for bankruptcy.

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE AGING COMMITTEE

REGARDING RAISED BILL 138

AN ACT ESTBLISHING A TASE FORCE TO STUDY "AGING IN PLACE"

February 28, 2012

Senator Prague, Senator Serra and members of the Aging Committee, my name is Deborah Hoyt and I am the President and CEO of the Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice (CAHCH). Our member agencies employ over 10,755 home health and hospice workers in Connecticut and perform nearly 5-million home health visits each year. Our trained nurses and aides enable chronically ill and disabled individuals to receive cost-effective healthcare in the comfort of their own homes – the setting that they, and their family members, prefer most.

CAHCH **fully supports** Raised Bill 138 establishing a task force to study how the state can encourage "aging in place." Further, as Connecticut's united voice for home care and hospice and recognized experts in chronic care management, CAHCH would welcome the opportunity for one of our home health agency leaders to serve as an appointee to this Task Force.

Our interests are two-fold—to assist the Committee in developing a comprehensive plan which will foster a change in Connecticut's culture toward aging in place; and to ensure that Connecticut citizens receive safe and appropriate home health services within an infrastructure equipped to meet the demands of a growing aging demographic.

CAHCH supports the state's long term care goal of rebalancing and aging in place. According to a 2010 study by the University of Connecticut, investing in a system that supports the delivery of home health care will ensure Connecticut's fiscal health as well as the overall sustainability of the safety net.

Thank you for consideration this testimony and CAHCH's request for an appointment to this task force. Please feel free to contact me anytime at hoyt@cahch.org or 203-294-7349.

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Testimony

Joint Committee on Aging

February 28, 2012

IN FAVOR OF SB 138: An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study "Aging in Place"

Good morning. My name is Molly Cole and I am the Executive Director of the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Council is a governor appointed council comprised of individuals with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, state agencies and interested providers. Our mission is to promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities.

Aging in Place is a good approach to a serious concern as individuals with developmental disabilities age. These individuals run a high risk of not having appropriate planning and supports to age in their own homes and communities Many individuals with developmental disabilities live with aging caregivers. As those individuals die or are no longer able to meet the demands of caring for a family member with a developmental disability, there is a significant risk that these individuals could be moved to group homes or other more restrictive options away from their own communities. The life expectancy and age-related medical conditions of adults with developmental disabilities are similar to that of the general population unless they have severe levels of cognitive impairment, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, or have multiple disabilities. The growing numbers of older adults with developmental disabilities will increase the need for services and supports that enable them to maintain functioning and continue living as independently as possible, whether they are living with family or in other settings. Examples of such services and supports include personal care services, assistive technologies, home health care, recreation and social opportunities in the community, and other supports.

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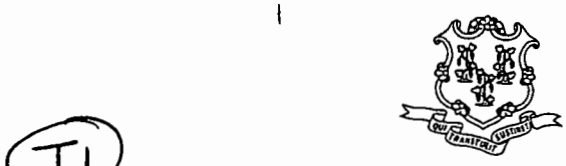
web page http //www ct gov/ctcdd

For the past two years the Council has funded a project to promote aging in place for people with developmental disabilities Historically, these aging in place initiatives have not specifically included people with developmental disabilities. Our project, funded through WeCAHR in Danbury, is the first to promote this process through Age Plan of New York, for this population. The primary focus of the project is to demonstrate the ability to create a Naturally Occurring Living Community for aging persons with disabilities. WeCAHR is currently working with Age Plan, a consulting agency specializing in promoting successful aging, to create tools, assess the community, build on existing networks as well as create new networks, connecting with the aging networks and identifying individuals for the project to demonstrate the ability to create a NOLC. Part of the process includes WeCAHR's participation in the Village to Village Network. They have been the first agency in the country to raise the issue of including people with disabilities within the Village to Village Network.

The Council applauds and supports this bill, and urges the Committee to ensure that the voice of people with developmental disabilities is included within the aging in place task force as it is created.

Molly Cole
Executive Director
CT Council on Developmental Disabilites
460 Capitol Avenue, Hartford
Molly.cole@ct.gov
(860) 418-6157



T1

Testimony before the Aging Committee

February 28, 2012

Good Morning Senator Prague, Representative Serra and distinguished members of the Aging Committee. My name is Pam Giannini and I serve as the Director of Aging, Community and Social Work Services as well as Director of the State Unit on Aging at the Department of Social Services. I am here today to testify on a number of bills that impact the department.

S.B. No. 138 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY "AGING IN PLACE"

This bill proposes to establish a task force that appears to duplicate the mission of the current Long-Term Care Planning Committee (LTCP), established in 1998 by the legislature. The LTCP Committee is composed of executive agency representatives as well as chairs and ranking members of several legislative committees. Furthermore, the legislature established the Long Term Care Advisory Council to advise the Planning Committee, which is composed of a mix of two independent state agencies (the Commission on Aging and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Office), and various long-term care industry, labor, and elderly stakeholder groups. Over the years, both entities have added members, so that the Planning Committee currently has 23 members and the Advisory Council has 27.

The Planning Committee's original charge was to create a long-term care plan for the elderly and to study a variety of elderly-related issues, which was later expanded to include all persons with disabilities. The Committee has produced a number of plans to address at least three of the components of the long-term care system: home and community-based services, supportive housing, and nursing facilities. In addition, the Planning Committee oversaw the development of an extensive and comprehensive study of these issues. Therefore, if the legislature believes there are additional issues with regard to long-term-care planning that need to be addressed, they would be more appropriately addressed by the Long-Term Care Planning Committee.

SB142
SB143

A similar bill was proposed last year, but this year's version substitutes the Commission on Aging to perform the Task Force's administrative functions, rather than the staff of the Aging Committee. The Commission on Aging, as the chair of the Long Term Care Advisory Council, has already begun working with the Planning Committee to draft the next 3 year plan which must be submitted in January 2013 to the General Assembly. Similarly, the State Unit on Aging located within the Department of Social Services will

also be preparing for a September, 2013 release date of its next 3 year State Plan on Aging, another highly involved process which covers many of the issue areas identified in the bill. Therefore, much of the work identified in the bill is duplicative of existing efforts. Moreover, the time constraints in the proposed legislation are not reasonable given the department's experience with the amount of time, effort and resources required to produce such a study.

S.B. No. 142 AN ACT INCREASING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY

This proposed bill would increase the asset limit for an individual applying for the Home Care Program by forty-seven percent and would increase the asset limit for couples by seventy-one percent. This change would also set a fixed asset limit in statute where currently the statute ties the asset limit to the community spouse protected amount, determined by the federal government, so that each year the amount changes accordingly.

Raising the asset limit will open the program to a much larger pool of applicants. We would caution that if the demand were to exceed the state appropriation, it may result in a waiting list or possibly a reduction of services to those currently being served. Furthermore, raising the eligibility criteria could reduce the amount of funds available to applicants with more limited resources.

Any expansion of the eligibility pool would have to be closely monitored to ensure that appropriations are not exceeded and services to those most in need are not compromised.

S.B. No. 143 AN ACT INCREASING ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING FOR THE ALZHEIMER RESPITE CARE PROGRAM

This bill proposes to increase the annual eligibility requirement for an individual with Alzheimer's disease from $41,000 to $50,000.

At this point, the bill does not propose to increase overall funding for the program to account for greater demand that would accompany the increase in the income limit. Therefore, raising the income limit would likely reduce the amount of funds available to lower income clients, who, with limited resources, are the greatest users of this program and most in need of respite services.

It should also be noted that, under PA 09-75, the annual eligibility requirement for an individual with Alzheimer's disease was already increased significantly from $30,000 to $41,000 effective July 1, 2009. The Commissioner was also given the authority to increase the income and asset eligibility criteria to reflect the annual cost of living adjustment in Social Security income, if any, without having to go through the legislature. An additional increase at this time of limited resources is not recommended.

H – 1147

CONNECTICUT
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PROCEEDINGS
2012

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All those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Stallworth.

REP. STALLWORTH (126th):

Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be placed on the consent calendar.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The motion is to place this item on the consent calendar.

Any objection? Any objection?

Hearing none, the item is placed on the consent calendar.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 431.

THE CLERK:

On page 19, Calendar 431, Senate Bill Number 138, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AGING IN PLACE, favorable report by the Committee on Aging.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The class of '93, Representative Joe Serra, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move for exception of the joint committee's

favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The motion is passage and acceptance of the committee's report in concurrence with the Senate.

Will you remark?

REP. SERRA (33rd):

I move adoption.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has in possession an amendment, LCO 3298. I ask that it be called and I be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 3298, designated Senate "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO 3298, Senate "A," offered by Senator Prague.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Is there objection to summarization?

If not, Representative, you may proceed.

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is the Aging in Place Task Force. What this amendment does is change the composition of the task force.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on adoption.

Remark further? Remark further on the amendment?

If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor of the amendment, please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Remark further on the bill as amended? Remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, Representative Serra.

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Mr. Speaker, I move that this be placed on the consent calendar.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The motion is to place this item on the consent calendar.

Is there objection? Objection?

Hearing none, the item is placed on the consent calendar.

calendar.

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm about to call the items again that are on the consent calendar, but I would like to alert the Clerk to two bills that we will be taking off the consent calendar. They are Calendars 380, and Calendars 431. HB5333 SB130 Those are Calendars 380 and Calendar 431.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 204.

THE CLERK:

On page 6, Calendar 204, Substitute for House Bill Number 530, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD IN CONTROL OF THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, favorable report by the Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Sharkey.

REP. SHARKEY (88th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

With that, let me -- I was looking to just list the calendar numbers again that we are planning to put on the consent calendar before I move them. I'll be doing this

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

If all the members have voted, please check the board. Please check the board to determine if your vote has been properly cast.

If so, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 285 in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	149
Necessary for Adoption	75
Those Voting Yea	137
Those Voting Nay	12
Those Absent and Not Voting	2

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill passes in concurrence with the Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 431.

THE CLERK:

On page 19, Calendar 431, Senate Bill Number 138, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AGING IN PLACE, as amended by Senate "A."

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Joe Serra.

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move for the exception (sic) of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question is acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

Will you remark, sir?

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, this is a task force bill that denotes aging in place; takes under consideration various areas that we look at for senior citizens.

And with that I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Madam Speaker, the Clerk has in possession an amendment, LCO 3298. I ask that it be called and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Okay. The amendment has already been adopted because this was put on consent and then removed.

So will you remark further on the bill as amended, Rep Serra?

REP. SERRA (33rd):

Oh, thank you. No, Madam Speaker. I guess the task force speaks for itself. It's a task force that will look at senior issues.

I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark further on the bill before us? Will you care to remark further?

Representative Noreen Kokoruda, you have the floor, madam. No? Okay.

Will you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further on the bill before us?

If not, staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is taking a roll call vote. Members to the Chamber, please.

(Speaker Donovan in the Chair.)

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Please check the roll call board to make sure your vote has been properly cast.

If all the members have voted the machine will be locked. The Clerk will please take a tally.

The Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill 138 as amended by Senate "A," in concurrence with the Senate.

Total Number Voting	148
Necessary for Adoption	75
Those Voting Yea	148
Those Voting Nay	0
Those Absent and Not Voting	3

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed.

The Clerk, please call Calendar Number 350.

THE CLERK:

On page 13, Calendar 350, Substitute for House Bill Number 5542, AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR UTILITY CUSTOMERS, favorable report of the Committee on

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SENATE

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SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, first item on Calendar Page 3, Calendar 114, Senate Bill Number 38, would mark that item Go.

Also, Madam President, Calendar Page 3, Calendar 116, Senate Bill Number 282, would mark that item pass temporarily.

Madam President, on Calendar Page 5, Calendar 180, Senate Bill Number 89, would mark that item Go.

And Madam President, on Calendar Page 6, Calendar 193, Senate Bill Number 159, would mark that item Go as well.

And also, Madam President, on Calendar Page 7, Calendar 228, Senate Bill 245, would mark that item Go.

And on Calendar Page 7, Calendar 230, Senate Bill Number 364, would mark that item Go as well.

Madam President, moving to Calendar Page 9, Madam President, Calendar 255, Senate Bill 402, is also marked Go.

And also on Calendar Page 9, Calendar 263, Senate Bill 243 is also marked Go.

Thank you, Madam President. There may be some additional items to mark a little later on as well as referrals of several bills to various committees. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Mr. Clerk, will you start with the Calendar.

THE CLERK:

Page 3, Calendar 114, Senate Bill Number 138 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AGING IN PLACE. Favorable Report of the Committee on Aging.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I move the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on passage of the bill. Will you remark?

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Madam President. The Clerk has in his possession an amendment, LCO 3298. Would he please call and I be allowed to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 3298, Senate "A", offered by Senator Prague.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Madam President. What the amendment does is --

THE CHAIR:

Do you want to adopt it first? Move for adoption?

SENATOR PRAGUE:

I move for adoption. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on adoption. Will you remark, please?

SENATOR PRAGUE:

What the amendment does is just add two people to the task force. It adds the Chairman of the Long-term Care Planning Committee and the Chairman of the Commission on Aging.

Again, Madam President, I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark? Seeing none, all in favor of the Amendment "A" please say aye.

ASSEMBLY:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed? Amendment "A" has passed. Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Thank you, Madam President. There are no further amendments to this bill. I just want to say something about the task force.

You know, the growing elderly population in the State of Connecticut is huge and we need to be prepared to deal with this population as they age so that folks will be able to stay at home, receive the proper home care and be less of a financial burden to the state, so I have high hopes for this task force.

So thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator. Will you remark? Will you remark? Senator Kelly.

SRNATOR KELLY:

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to rise in support of this bill. Like Senator Prague stated, aging is an important issue in the State of Connecticut. We have an aging population. I think this task force is a good idea because it looks at aging in place in particular with regards to looking at improvements to our community-based services and infrastructure at the local level.

I think this is a step in the right direction and I support the initiative. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you, Senator Kelly. Will you remark? Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President. I have a few questions to the proponent of the bill if I may, through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague, please prepare yourself. Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator Prague, for bringing this forward. I hear a lot about aging in place from Senator Kelly but it seems to be a very broad topic and potentially very wide in scope, so I'm hoping you can help me understand it a little bit better.

I guess the first question I have, through you, Madam President is, when we talk about aging in place are we talking about looking at a particular population beginning at a certain age through another age? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Through you, Madam President, to Senator Welch. Senator Welch, folks who are 65 and over would be eligible for whatever the recommendations are of this task force.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President. So as I understand it, we're really looking at a population 65 years beyond and that's going to be the scope of this task force.

You know, one of the thing that I've heard a lot about lately in the public, is how Connecticut is one of the most expensive states in the country in which to retire, and I would imagine that that is a subject, which would impact this very population we're discussing.

And you know, as I looked at the bill, I really don't see anything that addresses that particular subject matter. So if I may, through you, Madam President, are we contemplating addressing that situation as two, through any one of these seven items that this task force is supposed to look at, or is it a much more narrow scope than that? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Through you, Madam President, to Senator Welch. Senator Welch, the task force will not deal with retirement pension but will deal with the homecare options, will deal with the services that are needed to help folks age in place.

Certainly, whatever assets older people have will be a factor in their retirement, but we are not dealing with the financial aspects, of the personal financial aspects. We will be dealing with the cost of the state-funded homecare program as we currently have it and we will be dealing with options to keep people at home.

I mean, there are issues like transportation, like caregivers who come in and help with the laundry and the housekeeping and whatever the needs are of the elderly folks.

So, keeping people at home will be the goal of this task force, and keeping them out of nursing homes certainly is the goal of the state and of this Legislature.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President. I think that's a great answer and that is one of the reasons why I'm standing in support of this bill.

I do think we are missing an opportunity, though, and that is to address the cost of living that our seniors are facing here in the State of Connecticut, one that is actually driving people not necessarily out of the nursing homes, but out of their homes to a totally different state, which I think is tragic for us.

I do have one more question for Senator Prague, through you, Madam President, if I may.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR WELCH:

I know many of these bills start off as something other than study bills, and they wind up being study bills as a compromise at the end of the day. And just for my own intellectual curiosity, did this bill start off as a study bill, or was it something else before?

If it wasn't a study bill, if I may, through you, Madam President, what was the genesis of this bill as to where we are? Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Prague.

SENATOR PRAGUE:

Through you, Madam President, Senator Welch, this bill just came out of the Aging Committee. It was not a study bill. It was a deliberate attempt to put together recommendations for home care.

You know, currently when a senior needs home are, where do they turn? Where do they go? How do they get the services? And the purpose of this task force will be to put together, hopefully, a brochure that will be available to this population to help them with this decision.

And it's interesting that you mention the fact that this is an expensive state to live in. The Labor Committee actually had a bill to introduce another concept and besides Social Security in a retirement benefit.

We have talked about this and actually had a bill to create a public retirement system where people could pay in themselves, so when they did retire they would have additional money secured besides their Social Security. I still think it was a good idea and your discussing it makes it even a better idea.

SENATOR WELCH:

And that's all I have. Thank you, Madam President, for your time.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Thank you, Senator. Will you remark? Will you remark? Seeing none, then I guess we will have, ask the Clerk to do a roll call vote. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators please return to the Chamber.

An immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please call a tally.

THE CLERK:

Senate Bill Number 138 as amended by Senate "A"

Total number voting	35
Necessary for adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes. At this point I would ask for points of personal privilege. Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President. I rise for a point of personal privilege.

Madam President, I wanted to introduce today to the Senator, a former member of the House, I believe a former colleague of yours and perhaps maybe Senator Looney and Senator Roraback. I'm not sure of the dates. Also, our former First Selectman of Fairfield and someone I've known since, yeah, over, probably over 25 years, John Metsopoulos. If we could give him our warm Senate welcome. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Good to see you back, John.

(APPLAUSE.)