

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: May 11, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
From: Anna Broome, Legislative Analyst

LD 1624 Resolve, To Create a Stakeholder Group To Identify the Needs of Long-term Care Family Caregivers

SUMMARY: This resolve requires the long-term care ombudsman program to establish a stakeholder group to consider and make recommendations for the implementation of an assessment measure for the needs of family caregivers providing long-term care services to family members and to establish a plan to improve referrals to services. The LTCOP shall invite the participation of representatives of DHHS, AAAs, service coordination agencies for recipients of home care services, LSE, DRM and the agency designated by the State to provide statewide assessments as required by CMS, family caregivers and any interested parties. The LTCOP shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 2, 2022. (Emergency)

ISSUES FROM TESTIMONY:

- LTC Ombudsman in support. Family caregivers are the backbone of the long term services and supports system. On the RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council – learned about the TCARE assessment in Washington State to identify the needs of family caregivers – improved levels of depression and stress, delayed NF placement and saved Medicaid money. Stakeholder group to consider the implementation of TCARE.
- Request for additions to stakeholder group: Northern Light: representatives of hospitals and of home care service providers (for service coordination). Home Care & Hospice Alliance: Alliance and a provider of in-home care.
- DHHS in support: aligns with OADS work; 2020 OAA reauthorization required a family caregiver assessment to be implemented as part of the National Family Caregiver Support Program administered by OADS and operated by the AAAs. OADS will collaborate with LTCOP.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not yet received from OFPR.