



*Written Testimony before the Aging Committee
Submitted by the Department of Social Services
February 21, 2017*

S.B. No. 811 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS FOR LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS.

This bill would require the Department of Public Health and the Department of Social Services to study whether the existing patients' bill of rights adequately protects a nursing facility resident when a facility proposes to transfer the resident to a different room within the same facility.

The Department appreciates the intent of this bill, and agrees with the importance of the bill of rights for nursing home residents. The patient bill of rights, created pursuant to section 19a-550 of the Connecticut General Statutes, follows the provisions outlined by the Federal Social Security Act along with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Code of Federal Regulations. This statute is very prescriptive in the manner in which a patient can be transferred. All patients have the right to submit a complaint if they believe they have been treated unfairly.

In addition, pursuant to chapter 319aa of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Connecticut Long-Term Care Ombudsman program promotes the rights and quality of life, for residents of nursing facilities, including the rights assured by the patients' bill of rights.

As compliance with the patient bill of rights is monitored, and a mechanism is in place to review potential violations, the Department believes this bill is unnecessary. However, if this study is in response to a patient bill of rights provision that may be of concern, the Department is open to discussing with the proponent, and working with our sister agencies toward possible resolution.