

Legislative Summary of House Bill Number 6634 (PA 21-71) AN ACT CONCERNING ESSENTIAL SUPPORT PERSONS AND A STATE-WIDE VISITATION POLICY FOR RESIDENTS OF LONGTERM CARE FACILITIES

This bill allows long-term care facility residents, or their representatives, to designate an essential support person and a secondary essential support person who may visit the resident despite general visitation restrictions imposed on other visitors.

The bill applies to residents in nursing homes and managed residential communities that provide assisted living services. The bill also requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to establish a statewide policy for visitation with long-term care residents. In the event of a declared public health emergency, the bill requires the DPH commissioner to establish visitation requirements that incorporate a resident's need for essential support provided by an essential support person and other visitors. Under existing law, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman's duties include providing services to protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of long-term care facility residents. Under the bill, this includes services designed to address the impact of socialization, visitation, and the role of essential support persons on the residents' health, safety, and well-being. The bill allows nursing home residents and residents of managed residential communities that provide assisted living services to designate an essential support person. Under the bill, an essential support person is someone the resident or his or her representative designates who may visit with the resident in accordance with rules established by the DPH commissioner to provide essential support as reflected in the resident's person-centered care plan. Essential support includes (1) assistance with activities of daily living and (2) physical, emotional, psychological, and socialization support. The bill also allows residents or their representatives to designate a secondary essential support person to serve as backup to a primary essential support person. An essential support person and a secondary essential support person may visit the resident despite general visitation restrictions imposed on other visitors as long as they comply with any rules DPH establishes under a statewide visitation policy.

See full OLR Bill Summary: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/BA/PDF/2021HB-06634-R000506-BA.PDF>

See also Public Act No. 21-71 - <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00071-R00HB-06634-PA.PDF>

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