

**Legislative Summary of Senate Bill Number 975 (Public Act No. 21-55) AN ACT  
STRENGTHENING THE BILLS OF RIGHTS FOR LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS  
AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF RESIDENT TECHNOLOGY FOR VIRTUAL  
VISITATION AND VIRTUAL MONITORING**

This bill makes various changes affecting long-term care facility residents. Principally, it: 1. adds to the nursing home patients' bill of rights (see BACKGROUND) the right to treat their living quarters as their own home and extends these rights to residents of managed residential facilities (e.g., assisted living facilities); 2. allows nursing home residents to use technology of their choosing that facilitates virtual monitoring or virtual visitation and establishes related notification, use, and consent requirements; 3. requires residents to pay for the technology and its installation, maintenance, operation, deactivation, and removal; 4. requires nursing homes to provide residents with free internet access, electricity, and a power source for virtual monitoring or virtual visitation technology, under certain conditions; 5. generally grants nursing homes immunity from civil, criminal, or administrative liability related to residents' use of this technology; 6. exempts from virtual monitoring technology requirements, mobile telephones used primarily for phone communication or tablets not used for virtual monitoring (hereafter "mobile phones and tablets"), with certain exceptions; 7. allows the long-term care ombudsman to develop and provide on its website standard consent and notification forms for the use of virtual monitoring technology; and 8. allows the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the bill's nursing home virtual monitoring and virtual visitation provisions. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021, except the provisions on virtual monitoring and virtual visitation in nursing homes take effect October 1, 2021. See full OLR Bill analysis: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/BA/PDF/2021SB-00975-R01-BA.PDF>  
See also Public Act No. 21-55 - <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/ACT/PA/PDF/2021PA-00055-R00SB-00975-PA.PDF>

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