

SB 82 -- LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Chappelle-Nadal (Frederick)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Social Services by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to strongly encourage all long-term care facilities licensed in this state to institute policies that will facilitate familial involvement in the well-being and support of residents of long-term care facilities.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are some nursing homes that do not have policies that encourage family members of residents to engage with one another and the residents. It is like a Joint Commission time-out for nursing homes and those who have a vested interest in the care of residents. The bill is not a mandate, it strongly encourages facilities to implement such policies. Everyone wants to know their loved one is doing ok and the bill encourages familial involvement. Familial involvement is not something that you can really mandate but is good for residents, especially those who don't have family members visiting them.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Chappelle-Nadal; Missouri Health Care Association; and LeadingAge Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.