



## **WACCRA News-Mail April 23, 2021**

### **News from the WA State Legislature**

WACCRA advocates for seniors who live in CCRCs, and we keep an eye on Olympia as Bills that address quality of life issues for seniors move through the legislative process. As the 2021 legislative session draws to a close, we'd like to share some information about some of these Bills with you.

HB 1218, described as legislation for "Improving health, safety, and quality of life for residents in long-term care facilities" was passed in Olympia on April 20, 2021 with 96 yeas and 2 nays. The House has provided \$780,000 for HB 1218 in the 2021-2023 Biennial Operating Budget. No funding is provided on the Senate side.

We thank our WACCRA members who wrote to legislators in support of the Bill earlier this year.

#### **Here is a brief summary of HB 1218:**

- Requires long-term care facilities to develop comprehensive disaster preparedness plans.
- Requires long-term care facilities to meet timeliness standards regarding communications with the public as well as resident access to communication equipment.
- Requires long-term care facilities to maintain a current resident roster and contact list with contact information about each resident and any resident representative.
- Requires long-term care facilities to post notice of any stop placements or limited stop placements that have been imposed on the facility.
- Directs the Department of Social and Health Services to develop training materials to educate local health jurisdictions about the state's long-term care system and the rights of residents.
- Provides residents of long-term care facilities the right to visitation by an essential support person during times when resident visitation is limited

### **Other Bills of interest**

**1. House Bill 1120 - Concerning state of emergency operations impacting long-term services and supports**

**Passed House 58 yeas, 38 nays; passed Senate 49 yeas, 0 nays**

**2. House Bill 1141 - Increasing access to the death with dignity act**

**On Senate calendar, awaiting a vote of the full Senate**

- 3. House Bill 1196 - (Companion to SB 5325) - Concerning audio-only telemedicine  
See Senate Bill 5325 below**
- 4. House Bill 1323 – Long-term services trust  
Passed House 56-41, passed Senate 26-22; delivered to Governor 4/16/2021**
- 5. Senate Bill 5203 - Producing, distributing, and purchasing generic prescription drugs  
Passed House 66-31, passed Senate 28-21**
- 6. Senate Bill 5325 – (Companion to HB 1196) - Concerning audio-only telemedicine  
Passed House 98, passed Senate 47-0  
Governor signed 4/16/2021. Effective 7/25/2021**
- 7. Senate Bill 5027 - Concerning closed captioning on televisions in places of public accommodation  
Passed House 97-0, passed Senate 48-1**

In its first year of existence, WACCRA successfully advocated for the first Washington State CCRC law, RCW18.390, effective July 1, 2017. In part, this law requires that CCRCs register with the state Department of Health and Human Services. In the 2021-2023 Biennial Operating Budgets, the biennial registration fee for CCRCs is set at \$900 per facility.

If you are interested in legislative goings-on in Olympia, you can keep up-to-date by visiting <http://www.leg.wa.gov>

As always, we thank you for your continued support of WACCRA! Look for more informative News-Mails coming your way in the near future.

Monica Clement  
WACCRA Communications Chair