
DEPARTMENT OF AGING

Acting director

- Repeals the law requiring the Deputy Director of the Department of Aging to be the Acting Director when the Director of Aging is absent or disabled or the position is vacant.

Board of Executives of Long-Term Services and Supports

- Expands eligibility for the consumer member of the Board of Executives of a Long-Term Services and Supports (BELTSS) to include the representative of a consumer in a long-term services and supports setting.
- Adds an exception to the prohibition that complaints made to BELTSS are confidential and not subject to discovery in any civil action, permitting BELTSS to use the information in administrative hearings and admission in court pursuant to the Rules of Evidence.

Nursing home quality initiative projects

- Requires the Department to provide infection prevention and control services as a quality initiative improvement project.

Performance-based PASSPORT reimbursement

- Authorizes the Department to design a payment method for PASSPORT administrative agency operation that includes a pay-for-performance incentive component.

Long-term Care Ombudsman representative training

- Reduces training requirements for nonvolunteer representatives of the Office of the State Long-term Care Ombudsman.

Ohio Advisory Council for the Aging

- Specifies a new purpose for the Ohio Advisory Council for the Aging – to advise the Department as directed by the Governor and on the objectives of the federal Older Americans Act.
- Eliminates obsolete provisions regarding the date by which certain members must have been first appointed.

Golden Buckeye Card program

- Expands the formats possible for the Golden Buckeye Card to include physical or electronic cards, as well as endorsements on cards for one or more programs.

Acting director

(Repealed R.C. 173.05)

The bill repeals the law requiring the Deputy Director of the Department of Aging to be the Acting Director when the Director of Aging is absent or disabled or the position is vacant. The

bill also repeals the requirement that the Director of Aging specify who is to be the Acting Director when a Deputy Director has not been appointed.

Board of Executives of Long-Term Services and Supports

Membership

(R.C. 4751.02)

Regarding the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services and Supports (BELTSS), the bill expands eligibility criteria for one member of the 11-member board. Continuing law requires one member to be a consumer of services offered in a long-term services and supports setting. Under the bill, a person who represents such a consumer is also eligible for the consumer-member role.

Confidentiality of complaints

(R.C. 4751.30)

Ohio law prohibits complaints made to BELTSS from being subject to discovery in any civil action. The bill deems such complaints as confidential, but establishes an exception to the confidentiality – it permits the complaints to be used by BELTSS in administrative hearings. Any entity that receives a complaint pursuant to an administrative hearing must maintain the complaint’s confidentiality in the same manner as BELTSS. The bill also permits confidential complaints to be admitted in a judicial proceeding, but only in accordance with the Rules of Evidence of the court, and requires the court to take precautionary measures to ensure the confidentiality of any identifying information in the records.

Nursing home quality initiative projects

(R.C. 173.60)

Regarding the nursing home quality initiative program to promote person-centered care in nursing homes, the bill requires the Department to include infection prevention and control efforts as a component of the program. The bill requires the quality initiative program component to include facility technical assistance including services, programs, and content expertise, subject to the availability of funds. The infection prevention and control component must be included in a list of quality improvement projects that may be used by nursing homes to meet nursing home inspection and licensure requirements.

Performance-based PASSPORT reimbursement

(Section 209.20)

In order to improve health outcomes among populations served by PASSPORT administrative agencies, the bill authorizes the Department to design a payment method for PASSPORT administrative agency operation that includes a pay-for-performance incentive component earned by a PASSPORT administrative agency when defined consumer and policy outcomes are achieved.

If the Department opts to implement the payment method, it must do so through rules adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (R.C. Chapter 119). Before filing a proposed rule with a pay-for-performance incentive component with the Joint Committee on

Agency Rule Review, the Department must submit a report to the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee outlining the payment method.

Long-term Care Ombudsman representative training

(R.C. 173.21)

The bill reduces the number of specified training hours required for a nonvolunteer representative of the Office of the State Long-term Care Ombudsman. The reduction is accomplished as follows:

- Reducing hours of basic instruction required before the representative can handle cases without supervision, from 40 to 36;
- Eliminating a requirement that an additional 60 hours of instruction must be completed within the first 15 months of employment;
- Eliminating an internship of 20 hours that includes instruction and observation of basic nursing care and long-term care procedures;
- Eliminating observation of either a Department certification survey of a nursing facility or a licensing inspection of a residential facility by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Instead, the bill gives the Department of Aging the option to create rules regarding additional training, which may include an internship, in-service training, or continuing education. Under existing law, continuing education must be established by the Department.

The bill also eliminates law providing a training exemption for persons serving as an ombudsman for at least six months prior to June 11, 1990.

Ohio Advisory Council for the Aging

(R.C. 173.03)

The bill revises the law governing the Ohio Advisory Council for the Aging in two ways. First, it specifies that the Council's purpose is to advise the Department on the objectives of the Older Americans Act of 1965 and as directed by the Governor, rather than requiring the Council, as under current law, to carry out its role as defined under the Older Americans Act. Second, it eliminates obsolete provisions regarding the deadline for the Governor to appoint the first members.

Golden Buckeye Card program

(R.C. 173.06)

Regarding the Golden Buckeye Card program, the bill authorizes new formats beyond the current physical card. The Department may provide Golden Buckeye cards as physical or electronic cards, and the cards can be an endorsement on a card that includes one or more programs. Related to this change, the bill eliminates a requirement that a card must contain the card holder's signature.