

HB 2394 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/12/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Leif, Noble, Owens, Ruiz, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires long term care facilities, residential facilities, adult foster homes, and facilities with a memory care endorsement to have an isolation plan as a part of the facility's emergency response plans. Defines the scope and characteristics of such plans. Prohibits facilities from requiring residents to engage in virtual contact or communication. Requires facilities to provide assistive and supportive technology as necessary to facilitate contact with residents. Requires plan submission to the Department of Human Services (DHS) within six months after the effective date or when the facility updates its emergency response plan, whichever is earlier. Authorizes DHS to provide financial assistance. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Funds and assistance for technological resources for facilities
- Innovative solutions for remote communication
- Timeline for isolation plans to be drafted and a report sent to DHS
- Adjustment of requirements depending on facility size and number of residents
- Minimum number of visits per patient
- Longevity of available resources, adaptability to future conditions and technology development

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes requirement for long term care facilities, residential facilities, adult foster homes, and facilities with a memory care endorsement to have an isolation prevention plan available upon request that has been approved by DHS. Removes requirement to submit plan to DHS within 30 days of effective date. Mandates long term care facilities, residential facilities, adult foster homes, and facilities with a memory care endorsement must have an isolation plan as a part of the facility's emergency response plans. Defines the scope and characteristics of such plans. Prohibits facilities from requiring residents to engage in virtual contact or communication. Requires facilities to provide assistive and supportive technology to facilitate contact with residents. Requires plan submission to DHS within six months of the effective date or when the facility updates its emergency response plan, whichever is earlier.

BACKGROUND:

During a state of emergency or a public health emergency that may require periods of isolation, including disease outbreaks or epidemics, populations that may already feel isolated, such as residents of congregate living facilities, may benefit from a more thoughtful approach.

House Bill 2394 A directs certain congregate living facilities to establish isolation prevention plans in case of emergency.