

Senator Bill Stouffer 21st Senate District

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Senator Bill Stouffer Urges Committee Support of Two Health Bills

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, today spoke before the <u>Senate Health</u>, <u>Mental Health</u>, <u>Seniors and Families Committee</u> about two bills he's sponsoring this session.

Senator Stouffer says <u>Senate Bill 89</u> would prohibit inspection of a long-term facility if the inspector had worked there in the past five years and <u>Senate Bill 72</u> seeks to provide for the transfer of long-term care beds to certain new health care facilities.

"These bills are necessary for proper care of our elderly and disabled citizens," Sen. Stouffer said. "Our proposal would make slight changes to existing law to ensure transparency."

Under Senate Bill 89, recent former employees of long-term care facilities would not be allowed to inspect the businesses to avoid any kind of conflict of interest. Senate Bill 72 states that a new health care facility may be licensed without certificate of need review when arranging for the transfer of licensed skilled nursing facility or assisted living facility beds to a new health care facility. They would then be unable to add any beds for five years after the transaction.

"My hope is to get committee members to agree on the need for these changes," Sen. Stouffer said. "From there, it would be up to my colleagues in the Senate."

The committee will next vote on the bills before they could be taken up by the full Senate.

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Contact: Aaron Baker (573) 751-1507