

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2216

Unofficial

Whereas, long-term care provides a broad range of medical, personal, and social services and supports in-home and community settings for persons in need of care due to age, illness, accident, or disability, including many Missouri veterans who have served and protected Missouri residents and the nation; and

Whereas, over ten million people in the United States need some form of long-term care services. However, in 2014, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, the average occupancy rate of certified beds in certified nursing facilities in Missouri was 72.5%, which was the ninth lowest in the nation. Some counties in Missouri have significantly lower occupancy rates, resulting in an overabundance of available beds for the current long-term care facility resident population; and

Whereas, in Missouri, the average annual cost of a semi-private room in nursing home is nearly \$51,000. While some nursing home residents are able to pay the cost of care with long-term care insurance or private savings, many more rely on familial assistance and government programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, and veterans' assistance. On average, over 70% of the total cost of a resident's stay in a long-term care facility is paid by either the federal or state government; and

Whereas, the general underutilization of beds in Missouri long-term care facilities, the disproportionate distribution of beds to residents in many counties, and the high cost of care for vital long-term care services for the elderly, disabled, and veteran populations has resulted in a crisis in the provision of adequate and financially-sustainable long-term care for Missouri residents:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby establish the Senate Interim Committee on Long-Term Care Facilities; and

Be It Further Resolved that such committee be composed of five members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore, with three members being of the majority party and two members being of the minority party; and

Be It Further Resolved that such committee conduct in-depth studies and make appropriate recommendations concerning:

- (1) The relationship between certificate of need laws for long-term care facilities, the role of the

Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee, and the current occupancy and utilization of long-term care beds in Missouri, including beds in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and veterans homes;

(2) Methods to improve quality of care and reduce costs in long-term care facilities, including exploring alternative financial strategies such as public-private partnerships; and

(3) The role of legislators serving on the Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee; and

Be It Further Resolved that such committee may present a final report, together with its recommendations for any legislative action it deems necessary for submission to the Missouri Senate by December 31, 2016, at which point the committee shall be dissolved; and

Be It Further Resolved that such committee may solicit input and information necessary to fulfill its obligations from the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Missouri Veterans Commission, the Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee, and appropriate leaders in the long-term care industry in Missouri; and

Be It Further Resolved that the staffs of Senate Research and Senate Appropriations shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services as the committee may require in the performance of its duties; and

Be It Further Resolved that the committee, its members, and any staff assigned to the committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the committee.