

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5301 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT EXCLUDING SPOUSAL INCOME FROM CERTAIN RENT, FEE AND COST-SHARING CALCULATIONS RELATING TO HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES.

Title: BASED SERVICES.

Vote Date: 3/5/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would have the DSS seek a waiver to disregard from income eligibility any income earned by a spouse who provides more than 25% of the daily care for a spouse providing home and community services.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

Not Applicable

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Ms. Shantelle Varrs, Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Social Services: The Dept. is not clear about the intent of this proposal since spousal income is excluded from eligibility determinations for Medicaid waiver applicants and participants.

Ms. Mairead Painter, Long-Term Care Ombudsman: The bill recognizes the contribution of spouses' who provide daily care in the home and by reducing unnecessary barriers we strengthen families and help prevent avoidable institutionalization. Because of this they urge **support** of the bill.

Mr. Michael Werner, Lead Aging Policy Analyst, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity: He is in **support** of this bill as an innovative policy that recognizes the valuable but unpaid labor of spousal caregivers. In June 2023 at a meeting

the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services they reflected on the end of the declared public health emergency. The new CMS guidance instructs that states may exercise options to continue the use of family members, as paid care givers. They are quoted, "We are calling on states to take advantage of these opportunities and continue these flexibilities for family caregivers".

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ms. Natalie Shurtleff, Assoc. Director, Advocacy and Community Outreach, AARP Connecticut: They urge **support** for this legislation. This would recognize the unpaid labor of spousal caregivers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted

Reported by: Elizabeth Aheart, Clerk

Date: 3/6/26