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Senate Bill 956 (Substitute S-2)
Sponsor: Senator Peter J. Lucido
Committee: Health Policy and Human Services

Date Completed: 6-23-20

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to do the following:

- **Require the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to conduct, by July 31, 2020, an evaluation of the operation, efficacy, clinical outcomes, and performance of each COVID-19 regional hub that was implemented and operating during the State's response to coronavirus in nursing homes and provide a detailed report on its evaluation to the Legislature.**
- **Require the DHHS to develop and submit to the Legislature, by August 31, 2020, a plan describing a process to ensure that there were dedicated facilities for only coronavirus-positive patients in each of the eight health care regions of the State to provide care to individuals who tested positive for coronavirus and were ineligible for admission at a hospital, nursing home, or adult foster care facility.**
- **Require a plan to incorporate any enhancement that the DHHS considered appropriate to prevent the spread of coronavirus in nursing homes based on the evaluation conducted by the Department, if the plan used the regional hub design.**
- **Specify that an individual could not be admitted or retained for care in a nursing home if he or she were being moved from another health facility or agency and the individual had tested positive for coronavirus unless that individual had since recovered from coronavirus.**

The bill would require the DHHS to do both of the following:

- By July 31, 2020, conduct an evaluation of the operation, efficacy, clinical outcomes, and performance of each COVID-19 regional hub that was implemented and operating during the State's response to coronavirus in nursing homes and provide a detailed report on its evaluation to the Senate and House of Representatives standing committees on health policy.
- By August 31, 2020, develop and submit a plan to the Senate and House standing committees on health policy describing a process to ensure that there were dedicated facilities for only coronavirus-positive patients in each of the eight health care regions of the State to provide care to individuals who tested positive for coronavirus and were ineligible for admission at a hospital, nursing home, or adult foster care facility.

If the plan used the regional hub design, it would have to incorporate any enhancement that the DHHS considered appropriate to prevent the spread of coronavirus in nursing homes based on the evaluation conducted by the Department.

"Coronavirus" (COVID-19) would mean severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). "Health care region" would mean a health care region as described by the DHHS.

Under the Code, an individual may not be admitted or retained for care in a nursing home if he or she requires special medical or surgical treatment, or treatment for acute mental illness, developmental disability, communicable tuberculosis, or a communicable disease, unless the home is able to provide an area and a program for the care and the DHHS approved both the area and the program.

The bill specifies that an individual also could not be admitted or retained for care in a nursing home if he or she were being moved from another health facility or agency and the individual had tested positive for coronavirus unless that individual had since recovered from coronavirus.

MCL 333.21717 et al.

Legislative Analyst: Stephen Jackson

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would require the DHHS to evaluate the COVID-19 regional hubs and to develop a plan to create a process to ensure that there are dedicated skilled nursing facilities for COVID-19 patients. These provisions would lead to minor administrative costs for the DHHS. The requirement that COVID-19 positive individuals not be placed in skilled nursing facilities until they had recovered could delay some placements of those individuals in skilled nursing facilities.

Fiscal Analyst: Steve Angelotti

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.