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**HOUSE BILL 1664**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Zahn and Gregerson

1 AN ACT Relating to providing sufficient funding for the  
2 Washington state long-term care ombuds program; adding a new section  
3 to chapter 43.190 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) Residents of licensed long-term care facilities are entitled  
7 to a specific set of rights under chapter 70.129 RCW, including the  
8 right to be treated with courtesy, the opportunity to exercise  
9 reasonable control over life decisions, and the right to receive care  
10 in a manner and in an environment that maintains or enhances their  
11 dignity and respect in full recognition of their individuality;

12 (2) All residents of licensed long-term care facilities are  
13 classified as vulnerable adults under chapter 74.34 RCW;

14 (3) The long-term care ombuds program is mandated under chapter  
15 43.190 RCW to promote and protect the rights of residents, including  
16 identifying, investigating, and resolving complaints made by or on  
17 behalf of residents of long-term care facilities which may adversely  
18 affect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of these individuals;

19 (4) All residents of licensed long-term care facilities are  
20 entitled to ombuds services under chapter 70.129 RCW and the older  
21 Americans act;

1 (5) A 2020 report from the department of commerce found funding  
2 was insufficient to meet the ratio of one full-time ombuds for every  
3 2,000 residents as recommended by the institute of medicine; and

4 (6) The number of individuals living in licensed long-term care  
5 facilities is expected to continue to grow, requiring additional  
6 resources for the long-term care ombuds program.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.190  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) By September 1, 2025, and each subsequent September 1st, the  
10 long-term care ombuds program shall, in partnership with the  
11 department of commerce, and consulting with the office of financial  
12 management, develop a funding recommendation that provides adequate  
13 and appropriate funding for the long-term care ombuds program to  
14 allow it to fulfill its statutory obligations, including any  
15 legislation impacting residents of licensed long-term care facilities  
16 that will require additional work from the program. The funding  
17 recommendation must:

18 (a) Provide sufficient funding to achieve the ratio of one full-  
19 time ombuds for every 2,000 residents, as recommended by the  
20 institute of medicine;

21 (b) Account for the growth in licensed long-term care beds, as  
22 forecast by the caseload forecast council established in RCW  
23 43.88C.010;

24 (c) Account for any inflationary factors present in the consumer  
25 price index; and

26 (d) Account for any administrative needs for the department of  
27 commerce.

28 (2) By September 1, 2025, and each subsequent September 1st, the  
29 department of commerce shall submit the funding recommendation  
30 developed in subsection (1) of this section for consideration to the  
31 office of financial management and the chairs of the fiscal  
32 committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over the operating  
33 budget.

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