



ISSUE PAPER

Transfer of Licensed Beds

The Governor's Budget Proposal: In order to enable the state to budget accurately for medical assistance and to allocate fiscal resources most appropriately, current law imposes a cap on the number of nursing home beds that may be licensed statewide. The Department of Health Services (DHS) allocates the number of licensed nursing home beds among seven planning areas and to nursing homes within the planning areas.

Current law permits a nursing home to transfer a licensed bed to another nursing home if the receiving nursing home is within the same planning area or is in a county adjoining that planning area. Also, "the transferring nursing home and the receiving nursing home must be owned by corporations that are owned by the same person."

Current law also requires the transferring and receiving nursing homes to notify DHS of the proposed transfer within 30 days before the transfer occurs. The Department reviews the notice and must approve the transfer.

In his proposed 2009-11 biennial budget bill (Assembly Bill 75), Governor Jim Doyle has recommended allowing a nursing home to transfer a licensed bed to another nursing home regardless of location or ownership of the nursing home. The 30 day notification requirement is still required as is DHS approval of the transfer.

WHCA/WiCAL Position: Support. WHCA/WiCAL supports Governor Doyle's efforts to allow nursing homes to transfer beds with DHS approval.

In the past several years, more than 5000 nursing home beds have been closed as facilities focus on rehabilitating the elderly and disabled and returning them to home or other long-term care settings. Since the number of licensed nursing home beds has been decreasing, the flexibility for transferring licensed beds to areas that need them must also increase to ensure beds are available where they are needed.

The Governor's recommended changes will simply allow nursing homes the flexibility to move beds from one area of the state to another area to address the demand for long-term care services.

WHCA/WiCAL respectfully requests the Legislature's support for the Governor's recommendation.

WHCA

Wisconsin Health Care Association

WiCAL

Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living
