



SPONSOR: Sen. Poore & Rep. Griffith & Rep. K. Johnson
Sens. Gay, Hocker, Hoffner, Wilson; Reps. Bolden,
Heffernan, Hensley, S. Moore

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 78

ESTABLISHING THE ENHANCING LIFELONG COMMUNITY SUPPORTS FOR THE AGING, INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, AND THEIR FAMILY CAREGIVERS TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, the number of Americans providing unpaid caregiving is increasing, with approximately 53 million
2 Americans in 2020 reporting that they are supporting an adult with health or functional needs, an increase from 43.5 million
3 in 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, nationwide, family caregivers provided over 36 billion hours of unpaid care in 2021 with an
5 estimated economic value of \$600 billion; and

6 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the care that families and friends provide is invaluable for
7 those receiving it, and is a precious resource for the communities, cities, and states wrestling with the realities of an aging
8 population and fewer family members or friends to provide care; and

9 WHEREAS, millions of people are able to live more independently, with dignity and self-determination, in the
10 community while experiencing a better quality of life thanks to some form of assistance from family caregivers; and

11 WHEREAS, family caregivers are truly the backbone of our long-term care system in this country, often juggling
12 the demands of full-time or part-time jobs in addition to caregiving; and

13 WHEREAS, support for family caregivers has received national attention, with Congress passing the Recognize,
14 Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act of 2017 to form a national caregiving strategy; and

15 WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that almost 29% of Delaware's population will be aged 60 and
16 older by the year 2030, an increase of 41% from 2012; and

17 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2020 estimated that 24% of Delawareans have a
18 functional disability; and

19 WHEREAS, 75% of Delaware's Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) service recipients live
20 in a family or private home and 88% of adults over age 65 would like to age in place at home; and

21 WHEREAS, over 61% of family caregivers are women and more than 40% are racially and ethnically diverse and
22 have distinct experiences and cultural values that often impact their access to and use of the long-term care system and
23 caregiving experience; and

24 WHEREAS, data from 2020 shows an increase of 91% in individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities
25 (I/DD) in Delaware living with a caregiver who is over the age of 65 in just seven years; and

26 WHEREAS, Delaware ranks 48th in the country in spending on Individual and Family Support for Adults with
27 I/DD; and

28 WHEREAS, today's family caregivers are often expected to perform highly complex tasks, including medical
29 tasks, care coordination, administration, and technological support for family members; and

30 WHEREAS, without support, the demands on family caregivers can cause mental, physical, and financial stress;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Delaware's affordable, accessible housing shortage is particularly challenging for persons with
33 physical and intellectual disabilities and for seniors; and

34 WHEREAS, Delaware's workforce shortages further place the burden of caregiving on families; and

35 WHEREAS, the demand for all forms of caregiving rises with an aging population; and

36 WHEREAS, innovations in assistive technology and telehealth can be utilized to support service recipients and
37 their family caregivers; and

38 WHEREAS, Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) and the Home and Community-Based 1915(c)
39 Lifespan Waiver can be used to support care for seniors and persons with disabilities; and

40 WHEREAS, the federal government has placed a priority on supporting caregivers and the people they serve, with
41 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 providing for a temporary 10% increase in federal matching funds for
42 home and community-based services, and with the Biden Administration issuing an Executive Order in April 2023
43 expanding access to community living services and supporting family caregivers; and

44 WHEREAS, increasing service coordination, making services and supports more accessible and easier to navigate,
45 is needed to better serve family caregivers and the people they support; and

46 WHEREAS, there is an opportunity for the public and private sectors to work together to develop solutions to
47 support family caregivers and those under their care.

48 NOW THEREFORE:

49 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
50 Representatives concurring therein, that the Enhancing Lifelong Community Supports for the Aging, Individuals with
51 Disabilities, and Their Family Caregivers Task Force ("Task Force") is established to study and make findings and
52 recommendations to best address the needs of seniors, persons with disabilities, and their family caregivers.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

54 (1) The Task Force comprises the following members, or a designee selected by a member serving by
55 virtue of position:

56 a. A Senator from the Majority Caucus, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
57 who serves as co-chair.

58 b. A Senator from the Minority Caucus, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

59 c. A Representative from the Majority Caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
60 Representatives, who serves as co-chair.

61 d. A Representative from the Minority Caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
62 Representatives.

63 e. The Director of the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance.

64 f. The Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services.

65 g. The Director of the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities.

66 h. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

67 i. The Secretary of Labor.

68 j. The Director of the Delaware State Housing Authority.

69 k. The Chief Executive Officer of DART First State and the Delaware Transit Corporation.

70 l. The Executive Director of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities.

71 m. The Executive Director of Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.

72 n. The Executive Director of AARP Delaware.

73 o. The Executive Director of the ARC of Delaware.

74 p. The Director of the University of Delaware's Center for Disabilities Studies.

75 q. The Executive Director of the Ability Network of Delaware.

76 r. The President of Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore.

77 s. The Executive Director of the Delaware Homebuilders Association.

78 t. The President of EDiS Company.

79 u. A residential services provider, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

80 v. Three members of the public representing caregivers, appointed by the President Pro Tempore
81 of the Senate.

82 w. Three members of the public representing service recipients who require caregiving support
83 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

84 (2) A member serving by virtue of position who is granted the ability to designate another individual to
85 attend a Task Force meeting must provide the designation in writing to the Co-Chairs. An individual attending a
86 meeting for a member serving by virtue of position has the same duties and rights as a member serving by virtue of
87 position.

88 (3) A quorum of the Task Force is a majority of the members of the Task Force.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall examine and recommend a course of action to address all
90 of the following related to enhancing lifelong community supports for the aging, individuals with disabilities, and their
91 family caregivers:

92 (1) Examine current and future community support needs for service recipients and caregivers, including
93 different types of housing supports, financial advisement, assistive technology, respite, and expanded workforce
94 capacity.

95 (2) Research successful practices supporting family caregivers in other states and examine their feasibility
96 for implementation in Delaware.

97 (3) Evaluate ways to streamline and coordinate resources and systems of care.

98 (4) Investigate current and future funding opportunities to support service recipients and caregivers,
99 including how to maximize Medicaid federal match dollars.

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

101 (1) Official action by the Task Force, including making findings and recommendations, requires the
102 approval of a majority of the members of the Task Force.

103 (2) The Task Force may adopt rules necessary for its operation.

104 (3) The co-chairs of the Task Force are responsible for guiding the administration of the Task Force by
105 doing, at a minimum, all of the following:

106 a. Setting a date, time, and place for the initial organizational meeting.

107 b. Supervising the preparation and distribution of meeting notices, agendas, minutes,
108 correspondence, and reports of the Task Force.

109 c. Sending to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
110 Representatives, and the Director of the Division of Research of Legislative Council, after the first
111 meeting of the Task Force, a list of the members of the Task Force and the person who appointed them.

112 d. Providing meeting notices, agendas, and minutes to the Director of the Division of Research
113 of Legislative Council.

114 e. Ensuring that the final report of the Task Force is submitted to the President Pro Tempore of
115 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with copies to all members of the General
116 Assembly; the Governor; The Director and the Librarian of the Division of Research of Legislative
117 Council; and the Delaware Public Archives.

118 (4) The Task Force shall hold its first meeting no later than September 30, 2023.

119 (5) The General Assembly is responsible for providing reasonable and necessary support staff, including
120 a legislative attorney, and materials for the Task Force to carry out its mission.

121 (6) The co-chairs of the Task Force shall compile a report containing a summary of the Task Force's
122 work regarding the issues assigned to it, including any findings and recommendations related to those issues, and
123 submit the report no later than March 2, 2024.

SYNOPSIS

This concurrent resolution establishes the Enhancing Lifelong Community Supports for the Aging, Individuals with Disabilities, and Their Family Caregivers Task Force.

Author: Senator Poore