



# 2018 New York State YMCA

## Youth And Government

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate 5

Bill #: S-35

1 **Sponsors:** Kirsten Gollhofer, Liana Grosser, and Molly Showers

2

### 3 **An Act To**

4 Amend Public Health Law § 2856 to create a pilot program that rewards nursing  
5 facility companies that allow young adults to stay rent free in return for socially  
6 interacting with the residents.

7

8 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

9

### 10 **Purpose**

11 This bill creates a voluntary pilot program where young adults interact with  
12 patients to help combat loneliness within residents living in nursing and assisted  
13 living homes while benefiting from having subsidized housing.

14

### 15 **Summary of Provisions**

#### 16 **Section 1**

17 Young Adult-people ranging from eighteen to twenty-five years of age.

18 Nursing Homes - A residential facility for people with chronic illness or disability,  
19 especially the elderly; also known as a convalescent home and long-term care  
20 facility.

#### 21 **Section 2**

22 2. Nursing facility companies shall have the following additional powers:

23 (o) Allow college-age students (aged 18-25) to stay in their housing rent free in  
24 exchange for specific time allotments for socially interacting positively with the  
25 clients. The specific amount of time and youth resident qualifications will be agreed  
26 by both the Commissioner of Health and the supervisor of the nursing home. This  
27 will be in compliance with a pilot program for 10 years after its passage. The  
28 reward for complying with the criteria listed above will be a state government  
29 funded grant. The amount of money will be determined by the Commissioner of  
30 Health. If the nursing home fails to comply with the criteria above, the grant will be  
31 rescinded . The grant money will come from the budget of Department of Health,  
32 specifically where the Commissioner of Health deems appropriate at that time.

33

### 34 **Justification**

35 Throughout the long term care system in New York State (and the rest of the  
36 United States), studies have shown that residents often suffer from loneliness and  
37 alienation. According to a report in 2008 researched by the University of California  
38 San Francisco, 43% of all of the senior citizens they polled felt that they felt alone  
39 often. Loneliness is linked to major negative mental and physical effects. Research



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40 shows that long-term loneliness can cause severe depression, higher levels of  
41 perceived stress, and even negatively impact the victim's sleep. This bill would help  
42 attack this subtle epidemic of loneliness in our nursing homes with the incentive of  
43 state grants to comply with a pilot program. Additionally, young adults in our state  
44 receive benefits through low-cost housing and simply the experience of working in a  
45 nursing home.

46

47 **Fiscal Implications**

48 There will be fiscal implications for this bill that will fluctuate depending on the  
49 budget of the NYS Health Department.

50

51 **Effective Date**

52 Two years after passage.