



**SLOAN WORK AND FAMILY
RESEARCH NETWORK**
BOSTON COLLEGE

2005–2006 Legislative Summary Sheet Survey of Elder Care Bills Introduced into State Legislatures

This legislative summary sheet was developed to give an overview of the policy and legislation related to elder care. Statutes and bills can be reviewed individually, but often it is useful to view them in “themes” or “clusters” to:

- ▶ Highlight legislative activity in one particular state
- ▶ Make it easier to compare legislation between states
- ▶ Illustrate varying legislation language and content

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Creation of task forces and committees:

Hawaii

- ▶ HI HCR 235
- ▶ HI SR 42
- ▶ HI SCR 79

Establishes a task force to facilitate the establishment of, and provide guidance for viable naturally occurring retirement communities.

Hawaii

- ▶ HI SCR 60
- ▶ HI SR 160
- ▶ HI HCR 182
- ▶ HI HR 136
- ▶ HI SCR 13

Convenes a task force which, in part, will address the needs of working families with elder care responsibilities.

Massachusetts

- ▶ MA HB 3727
- ▶ MA HB 4216

Establishes the Work-Family Council in the Executive Office of Economic Development. The mission of the task force is to develop broadly shared understandings of critical work-family issues, including those regarding elder care.

New Jersey

- ▶ NJ AB 1502

Creates a New Jersey Commission on Work and Family.



Tax credits to employers and employees:

Kentucky

- KY HB 146
- KY BR 482

Amending some language, requirements, and payouts for income tax credits related to elder care responsibilities.

New York

- NY AB 2781
- NY SB 206
- NY SB 4430

An act to provide employers with a tax credit for senior dependent care provided to employees and providing taxpayers with a credit towards their own payments for such care.

New York

- NY AB 2809
- NY SB 825

Establishes a modification reducing federal adjusted gross income for purposes of determining state and city income taxes, for the extra expenses incurred in caring for one's parents or near relatives at home.

New York

- NY AB 5276
- NY SB 1194

Establishes the Caregiver's Assistance Act which gives a taxpayer who cares for a qualifying senior family member a credit against the tax imposed, up to 20% of qualified care expenses.



Quality of care:

Hawaii

- HI SB 1464

Amends the Elder Community Care Act to provide a system of affordable and adequate long term care for the vast majority of elders in need.

Hawaii

- HI HR 54
- HI HCR 63

Develops a system of elder care designed to provide a safe, comfortable, joyful, dignified, and healthful aging experience for all seniors, compensates a family member who acts as caregiver, and raises the Medicaid "spend down" limit to enable elders to retain financial dignity.

Hawaii

- HI SB 3252
- HI SB 3253

Expands the Kupuna Care program which helps older adults and their family caregivers maintain quality of life and have access to services.

West Virginia

- ▶ WV HB 2324
Establishes a sliding fee scale for elder care and in-home health care for senior citizens.



Leave options:

Massachusetts

- ▶ MA SB 1130
- ▶ MA HB 3788
Establishes a mandate for all employers to provide a minimum of 7 paid sick days per year which can be used for care of an elder relative.

Pennsylvania

- ▶ PA HB 1764
Entitles eligible employees to receive 24 hours of unpaid leave during any 12-month period from an employer to provide care to an elderly relative.

Rhode Island

- ▶ RI SB 2037
Provides employees with up to 14 hours of unpaid leave during any 12-month period to care for an elderly relative.



Community service:

Hawaii

- ▶ HI SB 1021
Establishes "Time Banking," which uses a currency of "Time Dollars" whereby elder care service providers can earn Time Dollars to be used to exchange for services from others.

Delaware

- ▶ DE HB 107
Creates a 211 Community Social Services Helpline which will provide information 24 hours a day on referral and resource information for elder care.

For more information, the Network has a topic pages online for Elder Care at the Workplace. Please visit <http://wfnetwork.bc.edu/topic.php?id=30&area=academics> for this information.