

# Michigan Quality Community Care Council Act

Executive Summary of HB 6195  
May 2010

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**Overview:** A bi-partisan bill to strengthen and make permanent the Michigan Quality Community Care Council (MQC3), a successful pilot program that allows seniors and persons with disabilities to remain healthy and independent in their own homes instead of forcing them into expensive nursing homes. This bill will make the MQC3 even more effective and efficient and ensure that Michigan's homecare system can meet its growing long-term care needs. The bill will also strengthen background checks, screening and training, so seniors and persons with disabilities receive safe, high-quality care.

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## What does the MQC3 do?

- The MQC3 provides services for the state's Home Help program. About 60,000 Michiganders are enrolled in the Home Help program — that's a 32-percent increase since 2000.
- The MQC3 maintains a cutting-edge registry of homecare providers, which is used to link patients who need care to qualified providers. The MQC3 also performs background checks and screening for homecare providers and allows Medicaid recipients to choose a provider who fits their specific criteria and needs. Additionally, the MQC3 provides training for homecare providers on issues such as adult first aid, CPR, stress management, communication, nutrition and working with patients with Alzheimer's and dementia.

## What does this bill do?

- This legislation creates the MQC3 as a public body. It also directs the departments of Community Health and Human Services to use the MQC3 to arrange personal care services under the Home Help program. The legislation will transfer existing MQC3 staff, contract obligations and assets to the new entity.
- Strengthening the MQC3 will allow more seniors and persons with disabilities to remain healthy and independent in their own homes instead of forcing them into expensive nursing homes. It will also strengthen background checks, rigorous screening and training to ensure that seniors and persons with disabilities receive safe, high-quality care.

## Why does Michigan need this legislation?

- Homecare saves taxpayers millions of dollars in expensive nursing home costs each year. Strengthening the MQC3 will make Michigan's Home Help program more effective and efficient — without any additional costs to the state. In fact, by making it easier for seniors and persons with disabilities to choose less-expensive homecare over nursing home care, this bill is expected to reduce Michigan's Medicaid spending and save taxpayer dollars.

## Who will govern the MQC3?

- The bill calls for an 13-member board of directors, consisting of:
  - One designee each from DCH and DHS
  - One designee each from the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader
  - Nine members representing consumers and patients who receive homecare
- The Governor may remove a board member for gross neglect and other malfeasance in office.