

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Ohio Department of Aging will conduct a hearing in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to obtain public comment concerning the Department's proposed amendment of rule 173-14-27 of the Administrative Code. Rule 173-14-27, entitled bed fee collection guidelines, governs the Department's collection of the bed fee charged to certain long-term care facilities in accordance with section 173.26 of the Revised Code. The bed fee collected by the Department is used to fund the operation of regional long-term care ombudsman programs throughout Ohio.

Rule 173-14-27 is being proposed for amendment in an effort: 1) to reflect recent statutory changes to section 173.26 of the Revised Code by increasing the amount of the bed fee charged to certain long-term care facilities and by exempting Adult Foster Homes from the list of facilities required to pay the fee; 2) to allow the Department of Aging flexibility to adjust the final due date for payment of the bed fee to a date beyond the deadline currently provided for in the rule; 3) to make the language used in the rule more consistent with the language found in the section 173.26 of the Revised Code; 4) to delete any unnecessary or redundant language; and 5) to make other minor, non-substantive wording changes and to correct a misspelled word.

The hearing to which this notice applies will be conducted on Tuesday, September 16, 2003 in Conference Room A of the Department's offices at 50 W. Broad St., 9th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The hearing will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will continue until all parties in attendance at that time have had an opportunity to provide comment. Written comments to the proposed rules may be mailed or faxed to the Department (FAX: 614-466-5741) on or before the date of the hearing. All requests for copies of the proposed amendment, and all written comments faxed to the Department, should be directed to the attention of Mike Laubert.