	Blue Bill # 4	
the KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Legislative Bill	Referred to Committee: Senate 4	
Authors: Lexie Holloway, Megan Sherrill, Brady Priest, Stuart Kernohan	Action on the Bill	
School: Bowling Green Jr. HS	House	Senate
City: Bowling Green	Passed Passed Defeated Defeated	

1 2	An act to ensure more safety for nursing home residents.
3	Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
4 5 6 7	Section 1: The purpose of this bill is to change the laws for more stringent punishments/requirements for nursing home facilities and employees.
8 9 10 11 12 13	Section 2: The current law for nursing homes is that the facility should conduct initial and periodical comprehensive, accurate, standardized, reproducible assessments of each resident's functional capacity. Each resident shall then receive the necessary care and services to attain/maintain the highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, in accordance with the comprehensive assessment and plan of care (902 KAR 20:300 = operation and services; nursing facilities).
14 15 16 17 18 19	Section 3: Afterward, each resident is to be treated properly according to state-mandated laws (902 KAR 20:300 = operation and services; nursing facilities). Today, there is no "set" punishment for persons found guilty of abusing nursing home residents. Our bill proposes that a proven abuser – whether by physical, psychological/emotional, medical and/or sexual circumstances – be punished as a Class D felon with a sentence of no less than three and no more than seven years time served.
20 21 22 23	Section 4: As of now in Kentucky, all employees working directly with patients must have background checks. This, however, does not apply to for food services and janitorial workers. Our bill proposes that ALL employees (certified or not) have said background checks.
24 25 26 27 28 29	Section 5: The law today says that ombudsmen workers (public advocate charged with representing the interests of the public by investigating and addressing complaints of maladministration or a violation of rights) do not have to be certified to conduct observations in nursing home facilities. They are volunteers. Our law proposes that an ombudsman must complete a six month apprenticeship in proper nursing home observation techniques.
30 31 32 33	Section 6: Each nursing home facility will be responsible for creating a \$5,000 fund each year to be spent on properly training ombudsmen workers. Any other charges incurred will be taken from the State Lottery revenue fund.
34	Section 7: This bill will take effect one year after passing.