
SUPPORT HB 1349 / SB 1592

Modernization for Consumer Choice in a Residential Setting

Florida Senior Living Association is working with all assisted living stakeholders to promote this legislation which modifies assisted living statutes to keep pace with changing seniors' expectations and industry standards for today and tomorrow. This proposal seeks to position Florida's assisted living providers to compete with other states for the competitive senior living market, and to keep and grow jobs in Florida. The bill in the House and the strike-all amendment in the Senate:

- Seeks to modernize the assisted living experience for Florida's seniors and improve housing options for seniors who need to transition out of their own home, but a nursing home setting is not necessary.
- Provides legislative policy guidance that empowers consumers to better participate in directing their care. It recognizes that assisted living communities are residential models with a health care overlay by expanding services and choices in the residential setting through the use of technological advances and innovations in health and safety.
- Allows state agencies and assisted living providers to operate more efficiently where it can safely be achieved, by reducing red tape, making clarifications, and removing duplications and confusion in statute.

Specifically, the proposal:

- Defines assistive devices for resident mobility. Seniors use assistive devices in their own home for walking and movement, and to provide stability and independence. They want to continue realizing the benefit of these devices when transitioning to their assisted living home. Additionally, assisted living providers can utilize such equipment to reduce on-the-job injuries to staff.
- Authorizes the use of safety devices and equipment. The new generation of ALF residents, who are comfortable with smart phones and iWatches, want the option of the safety provided by falls prevention devices and security systems.
- Adds resident admission criteria that allows the same services that were provided at home to be provided, if appropriate, to the resident in their assisted living home. This allows an intermediate housing option between home and institutional care.
- Streamlines and improves the risk management reporting process by reworking the requirements for reporting an adverse incident and eliminating duplicative reporting.
- Provides clarity for increased communication between the assisted living provider and third parties that provide services to residents within the ALF setting.