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### **Governor Rick Scott Signs Assisted Living Facilities Bill (HB 1001)**

*- Strengthens regulatory standards and clarifies enforcement capabilities of the Agency -*

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) is pleased to announce the passage of House Bill 1001, commonly referred to as the “Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) bill.” The new law includes several provisions affecting the regulation and enforcement of assisted living facilities.

“By signing this bill into law, Governor Scott has shown his commitment to holding ALF administrators and owners accountable for providing high quality care to their residents,” said Agency Secretary Elizabeth Dudek. “I also want to thank Senator Sobel and Representative Ahern for their steadfast support of this bill and dedication to bolstering Florida’s reputation as a leader in long-term care quality. This law puts in place additional protections and will help ALFs better serve the needs of its residents.”

The bill includes several key changes to assisted living facility licensure requirements in Florida:

- Significantly expands ALF information available for consumers on the Agency’s website.
- Requires an ALF requesting to serve more complex residents through an Extended Congregate Care license to demonstrate its performance during a provisional licensure period.
- Requires new employees of an ALF to complete pre-service orientation before interaction with residents.
- Adds specific duties that ALF staff may perform in order to assist residents with self-administration of medication and increases training.
- Modifies penalties for ALFs that fail to meet requirements including:
  - Specific fines for noncompliance with staff background screening,
  - An immediate moratorium (admission restriction) if an ALF fails to allow access to the facility,
  - License revocation for serious repeat violations.
- Increases licensure inspections for ALFs with serious violations and revises monitoring visit schedules for those with a good licensure history.



- Clarifies coordination of services for residents of ALFs with limited mental health licenses.
- Requires ALF residents be informed that any complaints to the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program are confidential.

The full law is available at: <http://ahca.media/HB1001>.

Representative Larry Ahern, who championed the bill in the House, shared his support, “Passing HB 1001 is a great step toward providing more accountability and a higher standard of care in Florida’s assisted living facilities. The regulatory and disciplinary provisions written into this bill are much-needed updates to policy that has historically lagged behind some of our neighboring states.”

Senator Eleanor Sobel, the Agency’s legislative sponsor for the bill in the Senate, added, “The individuals in ALFs are some of the most vulnerable in Florida. These patients are entitled to age in facilities which provide excellent care. By strengthening the oversight and passing this legislation, we have given the Agency more tools to punish bad actors, protect the frail and elderly, and maintain patient safety and protection. ”

Assisted living facilities provide residents with supervision and assistance with their daily activities to ensure their health, safety and well-being, and coordinate their care with outside healthcare providers. ALFs are intermediate facilities for those who cannot live independently, and do not require care in a nursing home or more institutional setting. The Agency currently licenses over 3,000 ALFs across the state.

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*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida’s Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 34 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov). Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA\\_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).*

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