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Secretary Dudek: HB 1335 Brings New Level of Openness to Long-term Care Waitlist and Screening Process

~ Bill Authorizes Official Methodology for Screening Long-term Care Applicants ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) Secretary Elizabeth Dudek applauded the passing of House Bill 1335, authorizing the Agency and the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) to adopt rules relating to the Long-term Care (LTC) waitlist in the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program (SMMC). While DOEA currently uses a prioritization system for newly approved individuals, there is no statutory or administrative guidelines for the waitlist process.

HB 1335 requires DOEA to adopt rules to create a uniform screening process that will give individuals applying to the LTC program a priority score and place them on a waitlist. An individual's score will then be used in the determination of release from the waitlist for enrollment into the program. Following the adoption of the rule, DOEA is required to make the methodology of the screening process available to the public on their website. HB 1335 also establishes the criteria in which DOEA may terminate an individual from the waitlist and provides certain individuals with priority enrollment to avoid the screening and waitlist process for home and community based services.

Secretary Dudek said, “House Bill 1335 brings a new level of openness to the waitlist process for individuals applying to the Long-term Care program. Survey results show high levels of satisfaction by enrollees in the program, and this bill will help individuals better understand the screening process. I look forward to working with our sister agency in the adoption of the rules required by this bill.”

Rep. Marylynn Magar, R-Tequeta, a second-time sponsor of Agency legislation, shared her support, “The Agency’s Long-term Care program provides services to some of the state’s frailest citizens. This legislation will help this program’s process to be more transparent so that these citizens can age with state assistance at home or at facilities which provide excellent care.”

Sen. Aaron Bean, R-Fernandina Beach, the Agency’s legislative sponsor for the bill in the Senate, added, “This legislation only codifies the already established prioritization process for Medicaid’s Long-term Care program. However, by explicitly defining the prioritization process, elders and their families can better understand the various tools and information available to them.”



The bill passed both chambers unanimously and heads to Governor Rick Scott's desk for his consideration.

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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 48,500 health care facilities and 45 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).