By the Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care

317-1448-01

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to long-term care; providing legislative findings with respect to the needs of the state's elderly population; requesting that the Governor establish an interagency panel to make recommendations for coordinating the services provided by state agencies and increasing the quality of care provided to the elderly; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Elderly Affairs to improve enforcement of regulatory standards and adopt rules governing nursing homes and assisted living facilities; providing legislative findings and intent with respect to lawsuits and the liability of nursing homes and assisted living facilities; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. The Legislature finds that Florida does not have a comprehensive strategy for economically and efficiently meeting the needs of an increasingly elderly population. The Legislature therefore requests the Governor to establish an interagency panel consisting of representatives from the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Elderly Affairs, and the Department of Children and Family Services, which shall analyze the state's long-term-care system and make recommendations for ensuring coordination among the agencies responsible for the long-term-care continuum and make recommendations to executive agencies and

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 the Legislature which are designed to increase the quality of 2 care and the use of noninstitutional settings to provide care 3 to the elderly. 4 Section 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to 5 improve the quality of long-term-care services provided in 6 this state. The Legislature directs the Agency for Health Care 7 Administration and the Department of Elderly Affairs to improve enforcement of regulatory standards and adopt rules to 8 9 increase the quality of care in nursing homes and assisted 10 living facilities licensed under part II or part III of 11 chapter 400, Florida Statutes. The Legislature finds that lawsuits against 12 Section 3. nursing homes are rising. The Legislature finds that nursing 13 homes and assisted living facilities are experiencing 14 15 increases in liability insurance premiums and insurance companies are refusing to write liability insurance coverage 16 17 for long-term-care facilities. It is the intent of the Legislature to examine the frequency of lawsuits and the 18 19 amounts of awards against nursing homes and assisted living facilities in this state. 20 This act shall take effect upon becoming a 21 Section 4. 22 law. 23 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* 24 25 SENATE SUMMARY Provides for the Governor to establish an interagency panel to make recommendations for coordinating services provided by state agencies to the elderly and for increasing the quality of care provided to the elderly. Requires that the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Elderly Affairs improve enforcement of standards and adopt rules governing proving and and the department of standards and adopt rules governing proving homes and 26 27 28 of standards and adopt rules governing nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Provides that the Legislature intends to examine the lawsuits and liability awards against nursing homes and assisted living facilities. 29 30 31