

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Community Affairs

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BILL: SB 1174

INTRODUCER: Senator Diaz de la Portilla

SUBJECT: Residential Facilities

DATE: January 25, 2016

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Cochran	Yeatman	CA	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			CF	
3.			FP	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 1174 requires a radius of 1,200 feet between a community residential home licensed for 7 to 14 residents and a community residential home licensed for 6 or fewer residents. It would not impact any homes already licensed and in operation prior to July 1, 2016.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Community Residential Homes**

Historically, community housing options for persons with disabilities, frail elderly persons, dependent or delinquent children, and persons with mental illnesses have been limited. Although the transition from providing services in large institutions to community-based programs began in the 1970s,<sup>1</sup> the availability of safe, appropriate, and affordable housing in Florida has been an ongoing challenge. The primary obstacle was the opposition to establishing affordable housing or housing for persons with disabilities or special needs in residential neighborhoods. In an attempt to address this issue the Legislature enacted s. 419.001, F.S., which establishes the siting requirements applicable to local governments for community residential homes.

A community residential home is a home consisting of 7 to 14 unrelated residents who operate as the functional equivalent of a family, including such supervision and care by supportive staff as

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<sup>1</sup> Normalization and deinstitutionalization have long been held to provide benefits to individuals with special needs. Normalization is a social science theory based upon the proposition "that the quality of life increases as an individual's access to culturally typical activities and settings increases." Deinstitutionalization seeks to remove individuals from placement in the more restrictive environment of institutions to the less restrictive environment of mainstream society. Working in concert these two principles encourage the development of community-based living arrangements for individuals with special needs. *Normalization and Deinstitutionalization of Mentally Retarded Individuals: Controversy and Facts*, *American Psychologist*, August 1987, Vol 42, No. 8,809-816.

may be necessary to meet the physical, emotional, and social needs of the residents.<sup>2</sup> Residency in a community residential home is limited to individuals who qualify as:<sup>3</sup>

- “Developmentally disabled,” as defined in s. 393.063, F.S., which includes a person with a disorder or syndrome that is attributable to intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, or Prader-Willi syndrome; that manifests before the age of 18; and that constitutes a substantial handicap that can reasonably be expected to continue indefinitely;
- A “frail elder” as defined in s. 429.65(9), F.S., which includes a functionally impaired elderly person who is 60 years of age or older and who has physical or mental limitations that restrict the person’s ability to perform the normal activities of daily living and that impede the person’s capacity to live independently;
- “Handicapped” pursuant to s. 760.22(7)(a), F.S., which includes a person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, or he or she has a record of having, or is regarded as having, such physical or mental impairment;
- A nondangerous person who has a “mental illness” as defined in s. 394.455(18), F.S., which includes an impairment of the mental or emotional processes that exercise conscious control of one’s actions or of the ability to perceive or understand reality, which impairment substantially interferes with the person’s ability to meet the ordinary demands of living; or
- A child who is found to be dependent by the court pursuant to ss. 39.01(14) and 984.03 F.S., and a “child in need of services” as defined in ss. 984.03(9) and 985.03(8), F.S.

Community residential homes must be licensed by the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Children and Families, or the Agency for Health Care Administration (collectively the “licensing entity”).<sup>4</sup>

### ***Local Government Approval of Proposed Community Residential Homes***

Local government is responsible for the site approval of a proposed community residential home. A sponsoring agency<sup>5</sup> is required to notify the chief executive officer of the local government in writing when a site for a community residential home has been selected in an area zoned for multifamily use.<sup>6</sup> The notice must include the address of the site, the residential licensing category, the number of residents, and the community support requirements of the program.<sup>7</sup> The notice must also contain a statement from the licensing entity indicating the licensing status of the home, and how the home meets applicable licensing criteria for the safe care and supervision of the residents.<sup>8</sup> The sponsoring agency must provide the local government with the most recently published data that identifies all community residential homes in the district in which the proposed site is to be located.<sup>9</sup> The local government reviews the notification from the sponsoring agency in accordance with the zoning ordinance of the jurisdiction in which the

<sup>2</sup> Section 419.001(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 419.001(e), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 419.001(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Section 419.001(1)(f), F.S., defines “sponsoring agency” as an agency or unit of government, a profit or nonprofit agency, or any other person or organization which intends to establish or operate a community residential home.

<sup>6</sup> Section 419.001(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

community residential home is located.<sup>10</sup> The local government then has up to 60 days to respond, and if no response is given within 60 days, the sponsoring agency may establish the home at the site in question.<sup>11</sup>

A local government may not deny the siting of a community residential home unless the site selected:<sup>12</sup>

- Does not otherwise conform to existing zoning regulations applicable to other multifamily uses in the area;
- Does not meet licensing criteria; or
- Would substantially alter the nature and character of the area by being located within a radius of:
  - 1,200 feet of another existing community residential home; or
  - 500 feet of an area of single-family zoning.

Section 419.001, F.S., additionally addresses siting requirements for homes with six or fewer residents which otherwise meet the definition of a community residential home. These homes are considered a single-family unit and a noncommercial, residential use for the purpose of local laws and ordinances.<sup>13</sup> These homes are allowed in a single- or multi-family zoned area without approval by the local government provided:<sup>14</sup>

- The home does not exist within a radius of 1,000 feet of another such home; and
- The sponsoring agency notifies the local government at the time of occupancy that the home is licensed.

Section 419.001, F.S., is silent as to which zoning requirement (within a radius of 1,200 feet or within a radius of 1,000 feet) applies when determining the proper distance between a community residential home and a home with six or fewer residents which otherwise meets the definition of a community residential home.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1** amends s. 419.001(5), F.S., to require a radius of 1,200 feet between a community residential home licensed for 7 to 14 residents and a community residential home licensed for six or fewer residents. It would not impact any homes already licensed and in operation prior to July 1, 2016. All licensing entities are required to utilize the statutory method for measuring distance established in s. 419.001(5), F.S., when determining whether a home meets zoning requirements.

**Section 2** provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

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<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Section 419.001(3)(b)(2), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 419.001(3)(c), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 419.001(2), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

## A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

## B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

## C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

The bill states that “when one home has 6 or fewer residents and another home has 7 to 14 residents, the greater distance requirement applies.” The “greater distance requirement” refers to the requirement for community residential homes which prohibits the siting of a proposed home within a radius of 1,200 feet of an existing home. It is recommended that the precise distance (within a radius of 1,200 feet) be used instead of the “greater distance requirement” to provide clarity to the statute.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 419.001 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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