

**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 Health Policy

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BILL: SB 402

INTRODUCER: Senator Harrell

SUBJECT: Assisted Living Facilities

DATE: November 4, 2019

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Looke	Brown	HP	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			AHS	
3.			AP	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 402 amends various statutes related to the regulation of assisted living facilities (ALF). The bill:

- Adds and amends several defined terms to clarify what is intended by the terms abuse, neglect, and exploitation as well as to increase the ability of an ALF to use assistive devices and physical restraints that the resident is able to operate.
- Amends the definition of the term “adverse incident” to include only events associated with an ALF’s intervention and eliminates the requirement that an ALF submit a preliminary report on an adverse incident no later than one day after the incident occurs.
- Requires each resident to have a medical examination performed no longer than 60 days prior to or up to 30 days after admission to the ALF and requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to adopt a form in rule that may be used by the health care practitioner performing the medical examination.
- Clarifies the requirements for a resident to be admitted to and retained in an ALF.
- Amends the AHCA’s rulemaking authority to account for technological advances and to clarify what the AHCA may require when adopting rules for maintenance and sanitary standards.
- Clarifies who may approve an ALF’s comprehensive emergency management plan and allows an ALF to submit the plan up to 30 days after receiving a license.
- Consolidates provisions related to firesafety into its own section of law rather than being intermingled with AHCA’s rulemaking authority.
- Amends several provisions related to ALF administrator core competency curriculum and examination to clarify that the AHCA must adopt an outline and learning objectives for such curriculum.

The bill’s provisions take effect July 1, 2020.

## II. Present Situation:

An ALF is a residential establishment, or part of a residential establishment, that provides housing, meals, and one or more personal services for a period exceeding 24 hours to one or more adults who are not relatives of the owner or administrator.<sup>1</sup> A personal service is direct physical assistance with, or supervision of, the activities of daily living and the self-administration of medication.<sup>2</sup> Activities of daily living include ambulation, bathing, dressing, eating, grooming, toileting, and other similar tasks.<sup>3</sup>

An ALF is required to provide care and services appropriate to the needs of the residents accepted for admission to the facility.<sup>4</sup> The owner or facility administrator determines whether an individual is appropriate for admission to the facility based on a number of criteria.<sup>5</sup> If, as determined by the facility administrator or health care provider, a resident no longer meets the criteria for continued residency or the facility is unable to meet the resident's needs, the resident must be discharged in accordance with the Resident Bill of Rights.<sup>6</sup>

There are 3,069 licensed ALFs in Florida having a total of 107,144 beds.<sup>7</sup> An ALF must have a standard license issued by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) under part I of ch. 429, F.S., and part II of ch. 408, F.S. In addition to a standard license, an ALF may have one or more specialty licenses that allow an ALF to provide additional care. These specialty licenses include limited nursing services (LNS),<sup>8</sup> limited mental health services (LMH),<sup>9</sup> and extended congregate care services (ECC).<sup>10</sup>

### ALF Staff Training

#### *Administrators and Managers*

Administrators and other ALF staff must meet minimum training and education requirements established in rule by the AHCA,<sup>11</sup> that are intended to assist ALFs in appropriately responding to the needs of residents, maintaining resident care and facility standards, and meeting licensure requirements.<sup>12</sup>

The current ALF core training requirements established by the AHCA consist of a minimum of 26 hours of training and passing a competency test. Administrators and managers must

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<sup>1</sup> Section 429.02(5), F.S. An ALF does not include an adult family-care home or a non-transient public lodging establishment.

<sup>2</sup> Section 429.02(17), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 429.02(1), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> See Rule 59A-36.007, F.A.C., for specific minimum standards.

<sup>5</sup> Section 429.26, F.S., and Rule 59A-36.006, F.A.C.

<sup>6</sup> Section 429.28, F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Agency for Health Care Administration, Health Care Finder. See <http://www.floridahealthfinder.gov/facilitylocator/ListFacilities.aspx> (last visited October 30, 2019).

<sup>8</sup> Section 429.07(3)(c), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 429.075, F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section 429.07(3)(b), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Rule 59A-36.011, F.A.C.

<sup>12</sup> Section 429.52(1), F.S.

successfully complete the core training requirements within three months after becoming an ALF administrator or manager. The minimum passing score for the competency test is 75 percent.<sup>13</sup>

Administrators and managers must participate in 12 hours of continuing education in topics related to assisted living every two years.<sup>14</sup> A newly-hired administrator or manager, who has successfully completed the ALF core training and continuing education requirements, is not required to retake the core training. An administrator or manager who has successfully completed the core training but has not maintained the continuing education requirements, must retake the ALF core training and retake the competency test.<sup>15</sup>

### ***Staff with Direct Care Responsibilities***

Facility administrators or managers are required to provide or arrange for six hours of in-service training for facility staff who provide direct care to residents.<sup>16</sup> Staff training requirements must generally be met within 30 days after staff begin employment at the facility; however, staff must have at least one hour of infection control training before providing direct care to residents. Nurses, certified nursing assistants, and home health aides who are on staff with an ALF are exempt from many of the training requirements. In addition to the standard six hours of in-service training, staff must complete one hour of elopement training and one hour of training on “do not resuscitate” orders. The staff may be required to complete training on special topics such as self-administration of medication and Alzheimer’s disease, if applicable.

### **Inspections and Surveys**

The AHCA is required to conduct a survey, investigation, or monitoring visit of an ALF:

- Prior to the issuance of a license;
- Prior to biennial renewal of a license;
- When there is a change of ownership;
- To monitor ALFs licensed to provide Limited Nursing Services or Extended Congregate Care services;
- To monitor ALFs cited in the previous year for a class I or class II violation or for four or more uncorrected class III violations;
- Upon receipt of an oral or written complaint of practices that threaten the health, safety, or welfare of residents;
- If the AHCA has reason to believe an ALF is violating a provision of part III of ch. 429, F.S., relating to adult day care centers or an administrative rule;
- To determine if cited deficiencies have been corrected; or
- To determine if an ALF is operating without a license.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>Administrators who have attended core training prior to July 1, 1997, and managers who attended the core training program prior to April 20, 1998, are not required to take the competency test. Administrators licensed as nursing home administrators in accordance with part II of chapter 468, F.S., are exempt from this requirement.

<sup>14</sup> Rule 59A-36.011, F.A.C.

<sup>15</sup> Rule 59A-36.011, F.A.C.

<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

<sup>17</sup> Section 429.34, F.S.

An applicant for licensure renewal is eligible for an abbreviated biennial survey by the AHCA if the applicant does not have any:

- Class I, class II, or uncorrected class III violations;
- Confirmed complaints from the long-term care ombudsman council<sup>18</sup> which were reported to the AHCA by the council; or
- Confirmed licensing complaints within the two licensing periods immediately preceding the current renewal date.<sup>19</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 402 amends various sections in ch. 429, F.S., related to the regulation of ALFs. In addition to technical and conforming changes:

**Section 1** amends s. 429.02, F.S., to add definitions for “abuse,”<sup>20</sup> “exploitation,”<sup>21</sup> and “neglect”<sup>22</sup> all of which have the same meaning as in s. 415.102, F.S. The bill also defines “assistive device” to mean any device designed or adapted to help a resident perform an action, a task, an activity of daily living, or a transfer; prevent a fall; or recover from a fall. The term does not include a total body lift or a motorized sit-to-stand lift, with the exception of a chair lift or recliner lift that a resident is able to operate independently. Additionally, the bill amends the definition of “physical restraint” to eliminate specific examples of what qualifies as a physical restraint and to specify that a device the resident chooses to use and is able to remove does not qualify as a physical restraint.

<sup>18</sup> Florida’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program was founded in 1975 as a result of the federal Older Americans Act, which grants a special set of residents’ rights to individuals who live in long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. Volunteer ombudsmen seek to ensure the health, safety, welfare and rights of these residents throughout Florida. See <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com/AboutUs.php> (last visited on October 30, 2019).

<sup>19</sup> Rule 59A-36.023, F.A.C.

<sup>20</sup> “Abuse” means any willful act or threatened act by a relative, caregiver, or household member which causes or is likely to cause significant impairment to a vulnerable adult’s physical, mental, or emotional health. Abuse includes acts and omissions. s. 415.102(1), F.S.

<sup>21</sup> “Exploitation” means a person who stands in a position of trust and confidence with a vulnerable adult and knowingly, by deception or intimidation, obtains or uses, or endeavors to obtain or use, a vulnerable adult’s funds, assets, or property with the intent to temporarily or permanently deprive a vulnerable adult of the use, benefit, or possession of the funds, assets, or property for the benefit of someone other than the vulnerable adult; or knows or should know that the vulnerable adult lacks the capacity to consent, and obtains or uses, or endeavors to obtain or use, the vulnerable adult’s funds, assets, or property with the intent to temporarily or permanently deprive the vulnerable adult of the use, benefit, or possession of the funds, assets, or property for the benefit of someone other than the vulnerable adult. “Exploitation” may include, but is not limited to breaches of fiduciary relationships, such as the misuse of a power of attorney or the abuse of guardianship duties, resulting in the unauthorized appropriation, sale, or transfer of property; unauthorized taking of personal assets; misappropriation, misuse, or transfer of moneys belonging to a vulnerable adult from a personal or joint account; or intentional or negligent failure to effectively use a vulnerable adult’s income and assets for the necessities required for that person’s support and maintenance. s. 415.102(9), F.S.

<sup>22</sup> “Neglect” means the failure or omission on the part of the caregiver or vulnerable adult to provide the care, supervision, and services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the vulnerable adult, including, but not limited to, food, clothing, medicine, shelter, supervision, and medical services, which a prudent person would consider essential for the well-being of a vulnerable adult. The term “neglect” also means the failure of a caregiver or vulnerable adult to make a reasonable effort to protect a vulnerable adult from abuse, neglect, or exploitation by others. “Neglect” is repeated conduct or a single incident of carelessness which produces or could reasonably be expected to result in serious physical or psychological injury or a substantial risk of death. Section 415.102(16), F.S.

**Section 2** amends s. 429.07, F.S., to specify that required written progress reports maintained on the services offered by extended congregate care and limited nursing services ALFs must cover only those services offered by the ALF, not those offered by third parties.

**Section 3** amends s. 429.11, F.S., to specify that a county or municipality may not issue a business tax receipt, rather than an occupational license, to an ALF without first determining that the ALF is licensed by the AHCA. This is a technical change in terminology.

**Section 4** amends s. 429.176, F.S., to specify that when an ALF changes administrators, the owner of the ALF must provide the AHCA with documentation that the new administrator meets educational requirements (in addition to core training requirements that are already required) within 90 days of the change.

**Section 5** amends s. 429.23, F.S., to specify that the definition of an “adverse incident” only includes events associated with the ALF’s intervention rather than the resident’s underlying disease or condition. The bill eliminates the requirement that an ALF provide a preliminary report of the occurrence of an adverse incident to the AHCA within one business day and instead requires the ALF to initiate an investigation within 24 hours and provide a full report to the AHCA within 15 days. The bill also eliminates the requirement that each ALF file a monthly report with the AHCA that includes any liability claim filed against it.

**Section 6** amends s. 429.255, F.S., to make technical changes.

**Section 7** amends s. 429.256, F.S., to include transdermal patches in the list of medications that unlicensed ALF staff may assist a resident in self-administering. The bill also clarifies that assistance with the self-administration of medication includes:

- A staff member confirming that the medication is intended for the resident and orally advising the resident of the medication’s name and purpose;<sup>23</sup> and
- A staff member assisting with the self-administration of a medication that is prescribed “as needed” if the resident requesting the medication is aware of his or her need for the medication and the purpose for taking the medication.<sup>24</sup>

**Section 8** amends s. 429.26, F.S., to require that each resident receive a medical examination by a physician, a physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse within 60 days prior to being or within 30 days after the admission to the facility. The practitioner performing the examination must fill out and sign a form that reflects the resident’s condition on the date the examination is performed, that may be the practitioner’s own form or a form adopted by the AHCA in rule, which includes the following information on the resident:

- Height, weight, and known allergies.
- Significant medical history and diagnoses.
- Physical or sensory limitations, including the need for fall precautions or recommended use of assistive devices.

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<sup>23</sup> Current law requires the staff member read the label on the medication. It is unclear whether the label must be read to the resident, however.

<sup>24</sup> Current law requires the resident to be competent.

- Cognitive or behavioral status and a brief description of any behavioral issues known or ascertained by the examining practitioner, including any known history of wandering or elopement.
- Nursing, treatment, or therapy service requirements.
- Whether assistance is needed for ambulating, eating, or transferring.
- Special dietary instructions.
- Whether he or she has any communicable diseases, including necessary precautions.
- Whether he or she is bedridden and the status of any pressure sores that he or she has.
- Whether the resident needs 24-hour nursing supervision or psychiatric care.
- A list of current prescribed medications as known or ascertained by the examining practitioner and whether the resident can self-administer medications, needs assistance, or needs medication administration.

The bill establishes criteria that for a resident's appropriateness for admission or continued residency, including:

- A facility may admit or retain a resident who receives a health care service or treatment that is designed to be provided within a private residential setting if all requirements for providing that service or treatment are met by the facility or a third party.
- A facility may admit or retain a resident who requires the use of assistive devices.<sup>25</sup>
- A facility may admit or retain an individual receiving hospice services if the arrangement is agreed to by the facility and the resident, additional care is provided by a licensed hospice, and the resident is under the care of a physician who agrees that the physical needs of the resident can be met at the facility. The resident must have a plan of care which delineates how the facility and the hospice will meet the scheduled and unscheduled needs of the resident.
- A facility may not retain a resident who requires 24-hour nursing supervision, except for a resident who is enrolled in hospice services pursuant to part IV of chapter 400.
- A facility may not admit or retain a resident who is bedridden<sup>26</sup> except that:
  - A bedridden resident may be admitted or retained if he or she is receiving hospice services if the arrangement is agreed to by the facility and the resident, additional care is provided by a licensed hospice, and the resident is under the care of a physician who agrees that the physical needs of the resident can be met at the facility.
  - A facility may retain a bedridden resident if the resident is bedridden for no more than seven days or up to 14 days if the facility is licensed to provide extended congregate care.

Additionally, the bill amends the requirement that an ALF must arrange for the necessary care and services to treat a resident who has developed dementia or cognitive impairment to instead require the ALF to notify the resident's designee or representative of the need for such health care services and to assist in making appointments for the resident.

**Section 9** amends s. 429.28, F.S., to provide the right that a resident at an ALF live free from exploitation; to require that a document stating the reasons for relocation of a resident be

<sup>25</sup> The term "assistive devices" is defined in section 1 of the bill.

<sup>26</sup> The bill defines "bedridden" as a resident who is confined to a bed because of the inability to: move, turn, or reposition without total physical assistance; transfer to a chair or wheelchair without total physical assistance; or sit safely in a chair or wheelchair without personal assistance or a physical restraint.

provided to the resident or the resident's representative; and to clarify AHCA rulemaking and inspection authority required by the resident's bill of rights.

**Section 10** amends s. 429.41, F.S., to:

- Clarify that the AHCA may account for technological advances in the provision of care, safety, and security, including the use of devices, equipment, and other security measures related to wander management, emergency response, staff risk management, and the general safety and security of residents, staff, and the facility in its rules.
- Remove language regarding firesafety standards that are being placed in new section 429.435, F.S. (See section 11 of the bill).
- Clarify that rule requirements for maintenance and sanitary conditions include furnishings for resident bedrooms or sleeping areas, locking devices and linens, but do not include requirements that are duplicative of those in ch. 553, ch. 381, or s. 633.206, F.S. The bill also requires that the rules clearly delineate the respective responsibilities of the AHCA's licensure and survey staff and the county health departments to ensure that inspections are not duplicative and allows the AHCA to collect fees<sup>27</sup> for food service inspections conducted by the county health department and transfer such fees to the Department of Health.
- Remove the requirement that comprehensive emergency management plans be made available for review by appropriate volunteer organizations and require that an ALF submit its plan to the county emergency management agency within 30 days after being issued a license rather than requiring the plan to be approved prior to the issuance of the license.
- Allow the use of physical restraints (as defined in section 1 of the bill) other than geriatric chairs and Posey restraints<sup>28</sup> in accordance with AHCA rules. Such rules must specify requirements for care planning, staff monitoring, and periodic review by a physician.
- Require the establishment of specific ALF elopement drill requirements, rather than elopement policies and procedures, and require administrators and direct care staff to review elopement procedures as part of the elopement drill.
- Allow the AHCA to use an abbreviated survey for an ALF that has had a confirmed ombudsman council complaint or licensure complaint unless such complaint results in a class I, II, or uncorrected class III violation.
- Requires the AHCA to adopt key quality-of-care standards in rule and eliminates the requirement to incorporate input from the state long-term care ombudsman council and representatives of provider groups.

**Section 11** creates s. 429.435, F.S., to consolidate requirements relating to uniform fire safety standards for ALFs into the new section. The requirements of this section are transposed from s. 429.41, F.S.

**Section 12** amends s. 429.52, F.S., to require the AHCA, in conjunction with ALF providers, to develop core training requirements for administrators consisting of core training learning objectives. The bill also requires the AHCA to adopt a curriculum outline that includes the learning objectives.

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<sup>27</sup> The quarterly fee of \$300 is established in current law under s. 381.0072, F.S.

<sup>28</sup> Posey restraints are a generic term for a restraint that restricts a patient's free movement while the patient is in bed.

The bill requires staff assisting with the self-administration of medication to complete six hours of training before providing such assistance and two hours of continuing education annually thereafter. The bill also specifies that topics covered in the preservice orientation for ALF staff are not required to be covered again in staff in-service training and that all required in-service training may be completed in a single course.

Additionally the bill requires the AHCA to establish core trainer registration and removal requirements.

**Section 13** establishes an effective date of July 1, 2020.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.



**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 429.02, 429.07, 429.11, 429.176, 429.23, 429.255, 429.256, 429.26, 429.28, 429.41, and 429.52.

This bill creates section 429.435 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.