

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to firesafety; amending s. 429.41,
3 F.S.; requiring the State Fire Marshal to establish
4 uniform firesafety standards for assisted living
5 facilities; revising provisions relating to the
6 minimum standards that must be adopted by the
7 Department of Elderly Affairs for firesafety in
8 assisted living facilities; clarifying the fees a
9 utility may charge for the installation and
10 maintenance of an automatic fire sprinkler system;
11 providing an exemption from uniform firesafety code
12 requirements for certain assisted living facilities;
13 providing an effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
17 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 429.41, Florida
18 Statutes, is amended to read:

19 429.41 Rules establishing standards.—

20 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that rules
21 published and enforced pursuant to this section shall include
22 criteria by which a reasonable and consistent quality of
23 resident care and quality of life may be ensured and the results
24 of such resident care may be demonstrated. Such rules shall also
25 ensure a safe and sanitary environment that is residential and
26 noninstitutional in design or nature. It is further intended

27 | that reasonable efforts be made to accommodate the needs and
28 | preferences of residents to enhance the quality of life in a
29 | facility. Uniform firesafety standards for assisted living
30 | facilities shall be established by the State Fire Marshal
31 | pursuant to s. 633.206. The agency, in consultation with the
32 | department, may adopt rules to administer the requirements of
33 | part II of chapter 408. In order to provide safe and sanitary
34 | facilities and the highest quality of resident care
35 | accommodating the needs and preferences of residents, the
36 | department, in consultation with the agency, the Department of
37 | Children and Families, and the Department of Health, shall adopt
38 | rules, policies, and procedures to administer this part, which
39 | must include reasonable and fair minimum standards in relation
40 | to:

41 | (a) The requirements for and maintenance of facilities,
42 | not in conflict with chapter 553, relating to plumbing, heating,
43 | cooling, lighting, ventilation, living space, and other housing
44 | conditions, which will ensure the health, safety, and comfort of
45 | residents ~~and protection from fire hazard, including adequate~~
46 | ~~provisions for fire alarm and other fire protection~~ suitable to
47 | the size of the structure. ~~Uniform firesafety standards shall be~~
48 | ~~established and enforced by the State Fire Marshal in~~
49 | ~~cooperation with the agency, the department, and the Department~~
50 | ~~of Health.~~

51 | 1. Firesafety evacuation capability determination.—

52 | a. ~~The National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 101A,~~

53 ~~Chapter 5, 1995 edition, shall be used for determining the~~
 54 ~~ability of the residents, with or without staff assistance, to~~
 55 ~~relocate from or within a licensed facility to a point of safety~~
 56 ~~as provided in the fire codes adopted herein. An evacuation~~
 57 ~~capability evaluation for initial licensure shall be conducted~~
 58 ~~within 6 months after the date of licensure. For existing~~
 59 ~~licensed facilities that are not equipped with an automatic fire~~
 60 ~~sprinkler system, the administrator shall evaluate the~~
 61 ~~evacuation capability of residents at least annually. The~~
 62 ~~evacuation capability evaluation for each facility not equipped~~
 63 ~~with an automatic fire sprinkler system shall be validated,~~
 64 ~~without liability, by the State Fire Marshal, by the local fire~~
 65 ~~marshal, or by the local authority having jurisdiction over~~
 66 ~~firesafety, before the license renewal date. If the State Fire~~
 67 ~~Marshal, local fire marshal, or local authority having~~
 68 ~~jurisdiction over firesafety has reason to believe that the~~
 69 ~~evacuation capability of a facility as reported by the~~
 70 ~~administrator may have changed, it may, with assistance from the~~
 71 ~~facility administrator, reevaluate the evacuation capability~~
 72 ~~through timed exiting drills. Translation of timed fire exiting~~
 73 ~~drills to evacuation capability may be determined:~~
 74 ~~(I) Three minutes or less: prompt.~~
 75 ~~(II) More than 3 minutes, but not more than 13 minutes:~~
 76 ~~slow.~~
 77 ~~(III) More than 13 minutes: impractical.~~
 78 ~~b. The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall provide or~~

79 ~~cause the provision of training and education on the proper~~
80 ~~application of Chapter 5, NFPA 101A, 1995 edition, to its~~
81 ~~employees, to staff of the Agency for Health Care Administration~~
82 ~~who are responsible for regulating facilities under this part,~~
83 ~~and to local governmental inspectors. The Office of the State~~
84 ~~Fire Marshal shall provide or cause the provision of this~~
85 ~~training within its existing budget, but may charge a fee for~~
86 ~~this training to offset its costs. The initial training must be~~
87 ~~delivered within 6 months after July 1, 1995, and as needed~~
88 ~~thereafter.~~

89 ~~e. The Office of the State Fire Marshal, in cooperation~~
90 ~~with provider associations, shall provide or cause the provision~~
91 ~~of a training program designed to inform facility operators on~~
92 ~~how to properly review bid documents relating to the~~
93 ~~installation of automatic fire sprinklers. The Office of the~~
94 ~~State Fire Marshal shall provide or cause the provision of this~~
95 ~~training within its existing budget, but may charge a fee for~~
96 ~~this training to offset its costs. The initial training must be~~
97 ~~delivered within 6 months after July 1, 1995, and as needed~~
98 ~~thereafter.~~

99 ~~d. The administrator of a licensed facility shall sign an~~
100 ~~affidavit verifying the number of residents occupying the~~
101 ~~facility at the time of the evacuation capability evaluation.~~

102 2. Firesafety requirements.-

103 ~~a. Except for the special applications provided herein,~~
104 ~~effective January 1, 1996, The National Fire Protection~~

105 Association, Life Safety Code, NFPA 101 and 101A, current
106 editions ~~1994 edition, Chapter 22 for new facilities and Chapter~~
107 ~~23 for existing facilities~~ shall be used in determining the
108 uniform firesafety fire code adopted ~~applied~~ by the State Fire
109 Marshal for assisted living facilities, pursuant to s. 633.206.

110 ~~b. Any new facility, regardless of size, that applies for~~
111 ~~a license on or after January 1, 1996, must be equipped with an~~
112 ~~automatic fire sprinkler system. The exceptions as provided in~~
113 ~~s. 22-2.3.5.1, NFPA 101, 1994 edition, as adopted herein, apply~~
114 ~~to any new facility housing eight or fewer residents. On July 1,~~
115 ~~1995, local governmental entities responsible for the issuance~~
116 ~~of permits for construction shall inform, without liability, any~~
117 ~~facility whose permit for construction is obtained before~~
118 ~~January 1, 1996, of this automatic fire sprinkler requirement.~~
119 ~~As used in this part, the term "a new facility" does not mean an~~
120 ~~existing facility that has undergone change of ownership.~~

121 ~~c. Notwithstanding any provision of s. 633.206 or of the~~
122 ~~National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 101A, Chapter 5, 1995~~
123 ~~edition, to the contrary, any existing facility housing eight or~~
124 ~~fewer residents is not required to install an automatic fire~~
125 ~~sprinkler system, nor to comply with any other requirement in~~
126 ~~Chapter 23, NFPA 101, 1994 edition, that exceeds the firesafety~~
127 ~~requirements of NFPA 101, 1988 edition, that applies to this~~
128 ~~size facility, unless the facility has been classified as~~
129 ~~impractical to evacuate. Any existing facility housing eight or~~
130 ~~fewer residents that is classified as impractical to evacuate~~

131 ~~must install an automatic fire sprinkler system within the~~
132 ~~timeframes granted in this section.~~

133 ~~d. Any existing facility that is required to install an~~
134 ~~automatic fire sprinkler system under this paragraph need not~~
135 ~~meet other firesafety requirements of Chapter 23, NFPA 101, 1994~~
136 ~~edition, which exceed the provisions of NFPA 101, 1988 edition.~~
137 ~~The mandate contained in this paragraph which requires certain~~
138 ~~facilities to install an automatic fire sprinkler system~~
139 ~~supersedes any other requirement.~~

140 ~~e. This paragraph does not supersede the exceptions~~
141 ~~granted in NFPA 101, 1988 edition or 1994 edition.~~

142 ~~f. This paragraph does not exempt facilities from other~~
143 ~~firesafety provisions adopted under s. 633.206 and local~~
144 ~~building code requirements in effect before July 1, 1995.~~

145 ~~b.g.~~ A local government or a utility may charge fees only
146 in an amount not to exceed the actual expenses incurred by the
147 local government or the utility relating to the installation and
148 maintenance of an automatic fire sprinkler system in an existing
149 and properly licensed assisted living facility structure ~~as of~~
150 ~~January 1, 1996.~~

151 ~~h. If a licensed facility undergoes major reconstruction~~
152 ~~or addition to an existing building on or after January 1, 1996,~~
153 ~~the entire building must be equipped with an automatic fire~~
154 ~~sprinkler system. Major reconstruction of a building means~~
155 ~~repair or restoration that costs in excess of 50 percent of the~~
156 ~~value of the building as reported on the tax rolls, excluding~~

157 ~~land, before reconstruction. Multiple reconstruction projects~~
158 ~~within a 5-year period the total costs of which exceed 50~~
159 ~~percent of the initial value of the building when the first~~
160 ~~reconstruction project was permitted are to be considered as~~
161 ~~major reconstruction. Application for a permit for an automatic~~
162 ~~fire sprinkler system is required upon application for a permit~~
163 ~~for a reconstruction project that creates costs that go over the~~
164 ~~50-percent threshold.~~

165 ~~i. Any facility licensed before January 1, 1996, that is~~
166 ~~required to install an automatic fire sprinkler system shall~~
167 ~~ensure that the installation is completed within the following~~
168 ~~timeframes based upon evacuation capability of the facility as~~
169 ~~determined under subparagraph 1.:~~

170 ~~(I) Impractical evacuation capability, 24 months.~~

171 ~~(II) Slow evacuation capability, 48 months.~~

172 ~~(III) Prompt evacuation capability, 60 months.~~

173

174 ~~The beginning date from which the deadline for the automatic~~
175 ~~fire sprinkler installation requirement must be calculated is~~
176 ~~upon receipt of written notice from the local fire official that~~
177 ~~an automatic fire sprinkler system must be installed. The local~~
178 ~~fire official shall send a copy of the document indicating the~~
179 ~~requirement of a fire sprinkler system to the Agency for Health~~
180 ~~Care Administration.~~

181 ~~j. It is recognized that the installation of an automatic~~
182 ~~fire sprinkler system may create financial hardship for some~~

183 ~~facilities. The appropriate local fire official shall, without~~
184 ~~liability, grant two 1-year extensions to the timeframes for~~
185 ~~installation established herein, if an automatic fire sprinkler~~
186 ~~installation cost estimate and proof of denial from two~~
187 ~~financial institutions for a construction loan to install the~~
188 ~~automatic fire sprinkler system are submitted. However, for any~~
189 ~~facility with a class I or class II, or a history of uncorrected~~
190 ~~class III, firesafety deficiencies, an extension must not be~~
191 ~~granted. The local fire official shall send a copy of the~~
192 ~~document granting the time extension to the Agency for Health~~
193 ~~Care Administration.~~

194 ~~k. A facility owner whose facility is required to be~~
195 ~~equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system under Chapter~~
196 ~~23, NFPA 101, 1994 edition, as adopted herein, must disclose to~~
197 ~~any potential buyer of the facility that an installation of an~~
198 ~~automatic fire sprinkler requirement exists. The sale of the~~
199 ~~facility does not alter the timeframe for the installation of~~
200 ~~the automatic fire sprinkler system.~~

201 ~~l. Existing facilities required to install an automatic~~
202 ~~fire sprinkler system as a result of construction-type~~
203 ~~restrictions in Chapter 23, NFPA 101, 1994 edition, as adopted~~
204 ~~herein, or evacuation capability requirements shall be notified~~
205 ~~by the local fire official in writing of the automatic fire~~
206 ~~sprinkler requirement, as well as the appropriate date for final~~
207 ~~compliance as provided in this subparagraph. The local fire~~
208 ~~official shall send a copy of the document to the Agency for~~

209 ~~Health Care Administration.~~

210 ~~m. Except in cases of life-threatening fire hazards, if an~~
 211 ~~existing facility experiences a change in the evacuation~~
 212 ~~capability, or if the local authority having jurisdiction~~
 213 ~~identifies a construction-type restriction, such that an~~
 214 ~~automatic fire sprinkler system is required, it shall be given~~
 215 ~~time for installation as provided in this subparagraph.~~

216
 217 ~~Facilities that are fully sprinkled and in compliance with other~~
 218 ~~firesafety standards are not required to conduct more than one~~
 219 ~~of the required fire drills between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7~~
 220 ~~a.m., per year. In lieu of the remaining drills, staff~~
 221 ~~responsible for residents during such hours may be required to~~
 222 ~~participate in a mock drill that includes a review of evacuation~~
 223 ~~procedures. Such standards must be included or referenced in the~~
 224 ~~rules adopted by the State Fire Marshal. Pursuant to s.~~
 225 ~~633.206(1)(b), the State Fire Marshal is the final~~
 226 ~~administrative authority for firesafety standards established~~
 227 ~~and enforced pursuant to this section.~~

228 c. All licensed facilities must have an annual fire
 229 inspection conducted by the local fire marshal or authority
 230 having jurisdiction.

231 d. An assisted living facility licensed before July 1,
 232 2016, is exempt from any requirement in the uniform firesafety
 233 code established and adopted pursuant to s. 633.206 by the State
 234 Fire Marshal for assisted living facilities which exceeds the

235 firesafety requirements of NFPA 101, 1994 edition, Chapter 23,
236 Existing Residential Board and Care Occupancies. However, a
237 facility that undergoes building rehabilitation, as described by
238 the uniform firesafety code established by the State Fire
239 Marshal, must thereafter be in compliance with the uniform
240 firesafety code in effect for assisted living facilities under
241 sub-subparagraph a.

242 3. Resident elopement requirements.—Facilities are
243 required to conduct a minimum of two resident elopement
244 prevention and response drills per year. All administrators and
245 direct care staff must participate in the drills which shall
246 include a review of procedures to address resident elopement.
247 Facilities must document the implementation of the drills and
248 ensure that the drills are conducted in a manner consistent with
249 the facility's resident elopement policies and procedures.

250 (b) The preparation and annual update of a comprehensive
251 emergency management plan. Such standards must be included in
252 the rules adopted by the department after consultation with the
253 Division of Emergency Management. At a minimum, the rules must
254 provide for plan components that address emergency evacuation
255 transportation; adequate sheltering arrangements; postdisaster
256 activities, including provision of emergency power, food, and
257 water; postdisaster transportation; supplies; staffing;
258 emergency equipment; individual identification of residents and
259 transfer of records; communication with families; and responses
260 to family inquiries. The comprehensive emergency management plan

261 is subject to review and approval by the local emergency
262 management agency. During its review, the local emergency
263 management agency shall ensure that the following agencies, at a
264 minimum, are given the opportunity to review the plan: the
265 Department of Elderly Affairs, the Department of Health, the
266 Agency for Health Care Administration, and the Division of
267 Emergency Management. Also, appropriate volunteer organizations
268 must be given the opportunity to review the plan. The local
269 emergency management agency shall complete its review within 60
270 days and either approve the plan or advise the facility of
271 necessary revisions.

272 (c) The number, training, and qualifications of all
273 personnel having responsibility for the care of residents. The
274 rules must require adequate staff to provide for the safety of
275 all residents. Facilities licensed for 17 or more residents are
276 required to maintain an alert staff for 24 hours per day.

277 (d) All sanitary conditions within the facility and its
278 surroundings which will ensure the health and comfort of
279 residents. The rules must clearly delineate the responsibilities
280 of the agency's licensure and survey staff, the county health
281 departments, and the local authority having jurisdiction over
282 firesafety and ensure that inspections are not duplicative. The
283 agency may collect fees for food service inspections conducted
284 by the county health departments and transfer such fees to the
285 Department of Health.

286 (e) License application and license renewal, transfer of

287 ownership, proper management of resident funds and personal
 288 property, surety bonds, resident contracts, refund policies,
 289 financial ability to operate, and facility and staff records.

290 (f) Inspections, complaint investigations, moratoriums,
 291 classification of deficiencies, levying and enforcement of
 292 penalties, and use of income from fees and fines.

293 (g) The enforcement of the resident bill of rights
 294 specified in s. 429.28.

295 (h) The care and maintenance of residents, which must
 296 include, but is not limited to:

- 297 1. The supervision of residents;
- 298 2. The provision of personal services;
- 299 3. The provision of, or arrangement for, social and
 300 leisure activities;
- 301 4. The arrangement for appointments and transportation to
 302 appropriate medical, dental, nursing, or mental health services,
 303 as needed by residents;
- 304 5. The management of medication;
- 305 6. The nutritional needs of residents;
- 306 7. Resident records; and
- 307 8. Internal risk management and quality assurance.

308 (i) Facilities holding a limited nursing, extended
 309 congregate care, or limited mental health license.

310 (j) The establishment of specific criteria to define
 311 appropriateness of resident admission and continued residency in
 312 a facility holding a standard, limited nursing, extended

313 | congregate care, and limited mental health license.

314 | (k) The use of physical or chemical restraints. The use of
315 | physical restraints is limited to half-bed rails as prescribed
316 | and documented by the resident's physician with the consent of
317 | the resident or, if applicable, the resident's representative or
318 | designee or the resident's surrogate, guardian, or attorney in
319 | fact. The use of chemical restraints is limited to prescribed
320 | dosages of medications authorized by the resident's physician
321 | and must be consistent with the resident's diagnosis. Residents
322 | who are receiving medications that can serve as chemical
323 | restraints must be evaluated by their physician at least
324 | annually to assess:

- 325 | 1. The continued need for the medication.
326 | 2. The level of the medication in the resident's blood.
327 | 3. The need for adjustments in the prescription.

328 | (l) The establishment of specific policies and procedures
329 | on resident elopement. Facilities shall conduct a minimum of two
330 | resident elopement drills each year. All administrators and
331 | direct care staff shall participate in the drills. Facilities
332 | shall document the drills.

333 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.