

Senate Bill 415

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Miller of the 49th, Dugan of the 30th, Shafer of the 48th,  
Black of the 8th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 regulation and construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, so as to require  
3 nursing homes in this state to have backup power sources in the event of power outages; to  
4 provide for requirements; to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations; to provide  
5 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation and  
9 construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, is amended in Article 2, relating to  
10 the Georgia Building Authority, by redesignating Code Section 31-7-22 as Code Section  
11 31-7-23 and by adding a new Code section to the end of Article 1, relating to regulation of  
12 hospitals and related institutions, to read as follows:

13 "31-7-22.

14 (a) On and after March 31, 2019, each nursing home in this state shall have and maintain  
15 a backup power source to provide power in the event of a power outage. Such backup  
16 power source shall be capable of providing power to the entire facility for a duration  
17 specified by the department to provide lighting in all patient rooms, common areas, exits,  
18 stairs, and corridors; to maintain critical safety systems such as telephones, fire detection,  
19 and suppression systems; to operate HVAC systems to maintain safe temperatures for the  
20 protection of patients; to operate refrigeration units for safe handling of food and  
21 medications; and to support all essential services for patients. Each facility shall establish  
22 and implement a routine maintenance plan to ensure the operation of the backup power  
23 source in the event of a power outage.

24 (b) The department shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to implement  
25 the provisions of this Code section."

26

**SECTION 2.**

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.