

SS SCS HCS HB 952 & 674 -- LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

This bill allows any intermediate care facility licensed prior to August 28, 2006, that provides the services of an assisted living facility to advertise itself as an assisted living facility without obtaining a license to operate as an assisted living facility from the Department of Health and Senior Services.

All new long-term care facilities; assisted living facilities that accept or retain individuals with a physical, cognitive, or other impairment that prevents the individual from safely evacuating the facility with minimal assistance; and facilities completing a major renovation that are licensed by the department are required to install and maintain an approved sprinkler system in accordance with the standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) by August 28, 2007. All existing residential care and assisted living facilities with more than 20 residents must install and maintain an approved sprinkler system by December 31, 2012. Long-term care, skilled nursing, and intermediate care facilities must install and maintain an approved sprinkler system by December 31, 2012, unless they receive an exemption from the department or meet the safety requirements of Chapter 33 of NFPA 101.

Facilities that make a substantial effort to install an approved sprinkler system prior to December 31, 2012, may apply to the department for a loan for the costs to install the system. The Fire Safety Standards Loan Fund is created as the funding mechanism for these loans. All long-term care facilities must be equipped with a complete fire alarm system by December 31, 2008; and each floor accessed by residents must be divided into at least two sections by one-hour rated smoke partitions.