

Florida Assisted Living Association

Legislative Update

April 11, 2008

Week 6

The big news this week is the passage of House Bill 503, which is referred to as the Take Your Guns to Work bill. The bill was fought by the majority of the big business groups including the Florida Chamber, Florida Retail Federation, and Associated Industries. The ONLY concession made on the original bill was adding the requirement of a concealed weapons permit.

FALA will not be taking an official position on the bill, but encourage you to contact Governor Crist if you oppose the bill. The Governor has indicated that he will sign this bill but we have heard that it will most likely be challenged in the courts. Available for your use are some template letters which will be on our website under the Members Only section. Or you can contact the office directly.

[Click here to find out how to contact Governor Crist](#)

House Bill 1401

Sponsored by Rep. Hugh Gibson (R-The Villages)

[House Bill 1401](#) was heard in House Healthcare Council this week and passed unanimously. We think that the bill will be withdrawn from its next committee, House Policy and Budget and head to the floor.

This bill outlines requirements for notices of terminations and relocations and gives the acceptable reasons for a facility initiated termination. The bill also requires that a copy of the resident notice be sent to the State Long Term Care Ombudsman. They will then compile this information and include in their annual report.

When you contact your Representative please tell them the following:

Please support the language currently in House Bill 1401 that provides discharge procedures for assisted living facilities and reject any additions that will create undue costs and administrative processes that will divert staff from the real work of caring for our residents.

Senate Bill 2216

Sponsored by Senator Ronda Storms (R-Brandon)

[Senate Bill 2216](#) is now in House Messages. This means that it could be sent to committee or sent directly to the floor. We have been asking House members to vote no on this bill and support Representative Gibson's bill, House Bill 1401. One thing to keep in mind is that this bill is much better now than when it began. There are many things that could happen over the next 3 weeks.

Other Bills on the Tracking List

The following bills are being tracked for activity

[House Bill 0153](#) sponsored by Rep. Cusack (D-Deland)
HIV/AIDS Education glitch bill

[House Bill 1283](#) sponsored by Rep. Cannon (R-Winter Park)
Ad Valorem Tax Assessment Value Challenges

[Senate Bill 1668](#) sponsored by Sen. Jones (R-Seminole)
Transparency bill - requires additional information be submitted with license applications. Companion bill is House Bill 1335.

Legislative Update Conference Call

Every Friday at 11:00am

Every Friday at 11:00am we will have a conference call to discuss the events of the week and discuss strategy. This call is a *"Members Only"* benefit and allows you to be more closely involved with the process, ask questions, make suggestions, etc. If you would like to participate, please contact me by email at patl@falamail.org for the call in number and passcode.

Patricia Lange, Executive Director
Florida Assisted Living Association
patl@falamail.org