

# Florida Assisted Living Association

## Legislative Update

March 21, 2008

### Week 3

Week 3 of session was hectic as everyone was working to get as much done as possible before the Easter Holiday. The budget is still the top priority. Bills that have any type of funding requirement will have little chance of making it through. FALA lobbyists have been working hard to maintain the same level of funding in the Nursing Home Diversion and the Assisted Living for the Elderly Waiver. The Assistive Care Service program showed up on a list this week in possible jeopardy, but FALA was able to ensure its safety.

### House Bill 1401

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

We have had three meetings with Representative Gibson's staff to work on the language in this bill and have come up with something that everyone involved has agreed to. As it is written now the 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.

The bill passed unanimously out of the House Healthy Seniors Committee on Tuesday and is scheduled to be heard next in Healthcare Council Committee and Policy and Budget Committee.

### Senate Bill 2216

*Sponsored by Senator Ronda Storms (R-Brandon)*

Despite efforts by FALA and other stakeholders, we have not had much success in convincing Senator Storms of the negative affect that this bill will have on assisted living facilities. We spent 3 hours meeting with the Senator and other groups on Monday, but did not see a lot of progress. I would like to personally thank Steven Schrunk from Countryside Lakes in Port Orange for making the trip to Tallahassee Wednesday morning to testify before this group. It is so important that these legislators hear from providers. But with all of our testimony the bill still passed out of the Senate Health Regulation Committee, Chaired by Senator Jeff Atwater (R-North Palm Beach). We have learned that the Senate is in favor of some type of resident protection bill. This bill contains a provision for all residents to be screened through the online sexual predator database and therefore they seem to favor it. However, some of the other provisions in the bill are still very onerous. FALA is still strategizing with other groups to defeat this bill. It's not over yet and we will still need your help. Look for more information in the next couple of days.

## House Bill 1335

*Sponsored by Representative Robert Schenck (R-Spring Hill)*

Designates act "Long-term Care Transparency Act"; requires additional information to be submitted with application for nursing home & assisted living facility licenses; provides additional grounds for action by AHCA against licensee; requires licensees to disclose financial or ownership interests acquired by certain entities within specified period of time; specifies additional circumstances under which AHCA may deny, revoke, or suspend facility's license or impose fine; prohibits use of liability insurance for litigation costs or attorney's fees; requires licensees to provide notice of change of ownership to AHCA & specified persons; authorizes AHCA to investigate applicant for ownership; requires licensee to assume certain liabilities if AHCA grants change of ownership; revises provisions restricting siting of community residential homes. The bill has been referred to the following committees: Healthy Seniors, Healthcare Council, and Policy and Budget. Senate Bill 1668 sponsored by Senator Dennis Jones (R-Seminole) is similar. So far, neither bill has moved.

## 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](mailto:patl@falamail.org) for the call in number and pass code.

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