10-129-98

A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to transitional living facilities for brain-injured and 3 4 spinal-cord-injured persons; creating pt. IX of ch. 400, F.S.; creating s. 400.905, F.S.; 5 providing for licensure of transitional living 6 7 facilities; creating s. 400.906, F.S.; providing definitions; creating s. 400.907, 8 9 F.S.; establishing license and fee 10 requirements; creating s. 400.908, F.S.; 11 regulating sale or transfer of ownership of a facility; creating s. 400.909, F.S.; providing 12 for denial, revocation, or suspension of a 13 license and imposition of an administrative 14 fine; creating s. 400.910, F.S.; providing for 15 a moratorium on admissions; creating s. 16 400.911, F.S.; providing for initial licensure 17 application; creating s. 400.912, F.S.; 18 19 providing for renewal, expiration, and 20 conditional licenses; creating s. 400.913, 21 F.S.; requiring reports of abuse in facilities; 22 creating s. 400.914, F.S.; providing for 23 disposition of fees and fines; creating s. 400.915, F.S.; providing for violations and 24 penalties; creating s. 400.916, F.S.; 25 prohibiting rebates; providing penalties; 26 27 creating s. 400.917, F.S.; prohibiting certain 2.8 solicitations; allowing certain third-party 29 supplementation; creating s. 400.918, F.S.; 30 providing for injunctive proceedings; creating 31 s. 400.919, F.S.; providing for receivership

2

3

4 5

6

7

8 9

10

11

1213

14

15

16 17

18 19

20

21

22

2324

25

2627

28 29

30

31

proceedings; creating s. 400.920, F.S.; providing for contracts; creating s. 400.921, F.S.; providing requirements for use of licensed personnel; creating s. 400.922, F.S.; providing for appropriateness of placements and examination of residents; creating s. 400.923, F.S.; providing for property and personal affairs of residents; providing a penalty; creating s. 400.924, F.S.; providing a resident bill of rights; creating 400.925, F.S.; providing for civil actions to enforce rights; creating s. 400.926, F.S.; providing right of entry and inspection; creating s. 400.927, F.S.; providing procedures for closing of facilities, including notice and penalties; creating s. 400.928, F.S.; providing for rules establishing standards; creating s. 400.929, F.S.; providing for maintenance of records and reports; amending s. 413.605, F.S.; providing additional duty of the advisory council on brain and spinal cord injuries; amending s. 413.273, F.S.; revising per diem and travel expenses for members of certain councils; amending s. 413.395, F.S.; authorizing incorporation of the Florida Independent Living Council; authorizing members' compensation and reimbursement for child care; amending s. 413.405, F.S., relating to the Rehabilitation Advisory Council; authorizing members' reimbursement for child care; repealing s. 400.805, F.S., relating to transitional living

```
1
           facilities for brain-injured and
 2
           spinal-cord-injured persons; providing an
3
           effective date.
4
5
   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
6
7
                       Sections 2-26 of this act create part IX of
           Section 1.
8
    chapter 400, Florida Statutes, which is entitled "Transitional
    Living Facilities, and which consists of sections 400.905,
9
10
    400.906, 400.907, 400.908, 400.909, 400.911, 400.912, 400.913,
11
    400.914, 400.915, 400.916, 400.917, 400.918, 400.919, 400.920,
    400.921, 400.922, 400.923, 400.924, 400.925, 400.926, 400.927,
12
    400.928, 400.929, Florida Statutes.
13
           Section 2. Section 400.905, Florida Statutes, is
14
15
    created to read:
           400.905 Transitional living facilities for
16
17
    brain-injured and spinal-cord-injured persons. --
18
          (1) Facilities that must be licensed under this part
19
    include all facilities that deliver services under this part,
    except as otherwise provided in this part.
20
               The following are exempt from the requirements of
21
          (2)
    this part or ineligible for a license issued under this part:
22
          (a) Any facility, institution, or other place operated
23
24
    by the Federal Government or any agency of the Federal
25
    Government.
          (b) Any facility or part of a facility licensed under
26
27
    chapter 393 or chapter 394 or licensed or eligible for
28
    licensure under any other part of this chapter.
29
          (3)(a) The agency shall, in consultation with the
30
    division, adopt rules that govern the physical plant and
31
    fiscal management of transitional living facilities.
```

| 1 | (b) The division shall, in consultation with the |
|----|--|
| 2 | agency, adopt rules that govern the services provided to |
| 3 | clients. Under those rules, investigative and enforcement |
| 4 | duties must be divided between the division and the agency as |
| 5 | described in part II of chapter 413 and this part. |
| 6 | (4)(a) It is unlawful for any person to offer or |
| 7 | advertise, in any medium, services or care as a transitional |
| 8 | living facility, or to use the term "transitional living |
| 9 | facility" or the term "transitional living program" to |
| 10 | describe services or care in any advertisement or offering, |
| 11 | without obtaining a license under this part. |
| 12 | (b) It is unlawful for a person licensed under this |
| 13 | part to advertise or represent to the public that the licensee |
| 14 | holds a license for any other type of facility. |
| 15 | (5) A violation of paragraph $(4)(a)$ or paragraph |
| 16 | (4)(b) or rules adopted under those paragraphs is a |
| 17 | misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. |
| 18 | 775.082 or s. 775.083. |
| 19 | Section 3. Section 400.906, Florida Statutes, is |
| 20 | created to read: |
| 21 | 400.906 DefinitionsAs used in this part, the term: |
| 22 | (1) "Activities of daily living" is defined as |
| 23 | provided in s. 413.20. |
| 24 | (2) "Administrator" means an individual who has |
| 25 | general administrative charge of a facility. |
| 26 | (3) "Agency" means the Agency for Health Care |
| 27 | Administration. |
| 28 | (4) "Applicant" means any facility owner or, with |
| 29 | respect to a business entity, a person appointed by the entity |
| 30 | to make application for a license. |
| 31 | |

- (5) "Community reintegration" means the point at which the division makes a determination that all resources available for addressing the medical, psychosocial, and personal needs of an individual within a particular community and necessary to minimize secondary medical and psychological complications and long-term care and promote independence and self-sufficiency have been identified and that the individual may be safely accommodated within the community independent of any further support from the division.
- (6) "Department" means the Department of Labor and Employment Security.
- (7) "Division" means the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Labor and Employment Security.
 - (8) "Facility" means a transitional living facility.
- (9) "Personal assistance services" is defined as provided in s. 413.20.
- (10) "Resident" means a person who is 16 years of age or older and who is residing in and receiving care at or through a facility.
- person who is 18 years of age or older, other than the facility owner or an agent or employee of the facility, and who is designated in writing by the resident, if legally competent, to receive notice of changes in the contract executed under s. 400.920 and to receive notice of and participate in meetings between the resident and the facility owner, administrator, or staff concerning the rights of the resident.
- (12) "Supervising activities of daily living" means reminding residents to engage in activities of daily living,

1 and, when necessary, observing or providing verbal cueing to residents while they perform these activities. 2 3 (13) "Time-limited" as used in s. 413.49(6)(c) means the period of time during which the individual demonstrates 4 5 measurable progress toward achieving community reintegration. 6 (14) "Transitional living facility" means a site at 7 which the functions set forth in s. 413.49(6)(b)-(d) are 8 performed primarily for the provision of services related to and directed at traumatic injury and operating solely to 9 10 effectuate a transitional living program, which site is in 11 compliance with the responsibilities stated in this part and relevant parts of chapter 413. 12 13 (15) "Transitional living program" means a written 14 plan that: (a) Conforms to the goal stated in s. 413.49(6)(b), 15 which is developed and agreed upon by the resident and, if 16 17 applicable, the resident's representative or designee or the resident's surrogate, guardian, or attorney in fact, if any, 18 19 and the administrator or designee representing the facility; (b) Addresses the unique physical and psychosocial 20 needs, abilities, and personal preferences of a resident who 21 is receiving services at or through the facility; and 22 (c) Includes information, in easily understood 23 24 language, concerning the services that are to be provided, who 25 is to provide the services, when the services are to be rendered, and the purposes and benefits of the services. 26 27 "Traumatic injury" is defined as provided in s. (16)28 413.20. 29 Section 4. Section 400.907, Florida Statutes, is 30 created to read: 31 400.907 License required; fee; display.--

4 5

(1)(a) It is unlawful to operate or maintain a facility without first obtaining from the agency a license authorizing such operation.

- (a) who, upon notification by the agency, fails to apply for a license within 10 working days after receiving the notification commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- 2. If the agency determines that an owner is operating or maintaining a facility without obtaining a license and determines that a condition that exists in the facility poses a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of a resident of the facility, the owner commits neglect as defined in s. 415.102 and is subject to the same actions and penalties specified in ss. 400.909 and 400.915 for a negligent act seriously affecting the health, safety, or welfare of a resident of the facility.
- (2) Separate licenses are required for facilities maintained in separate premises, even though operated under the same management. A separate license is not required for separate buildings on the same grounds.
- (3) A license granted by the agency must state the maximum licensed resident capacity of the facility, whether the facility is accredited to serve brain-injured persons or spinal-cord-injured persons, or both, the date the license was issued, the expiration date of the license, and any other information that the agency considers necessary.
- (4) The annual license fee for a facility is \$3,000 per license plus \$50 per resident times the maximum licensed resident capacity of the facility. Neither fee is refundable, in whole or in part.

| 1 | (5) The license must be displayed in a conspicuous |
|----|--|
| 2 | place inside the facility. |
| 3 | (6) A license is valid only in the possession of the |
| 4 | individual, firm, partnership, association, or corporation to |
| 5 | which it was issued and may not be sold, assigned, or |
| 6 | otherwise transferred, voluntarily or involuntarily; nor is a |
| 7 | license valid for any premises other that the premises for |
| 8 | which it was originally issued. |
| 9 | (7) For the purpose of any activity regulated under |
| 10 | this part in which a licensed facility participates in excess |
| 11 | of the authority granted under the facility's license, the |
| 12 | facility is considered unlicensed. |
| 13 | Section 5. Section 400.908, Florida Statutes, is |
| 14 | created to read: |
| 15 | 400.908 Sale or transfer of ownership of a |
| 16 | facilityIt is the intent of the Legislature to protect the |
| 17 | rights of the residents of a facility when the facility is |
| 18 | sold or the ownership thereof is transferred. When a facility |
| 19 | is sold or the ownership thereof is transferred, including any |
| 20 | transfer by lease: |
| 21 | (1) The transferee shall apply to the agency for a new |
| 22 | license at least 60 days before the date of transfer of |
| 23 | ownership. |
| 24 | (2)(a) The transferor shall notify the agency in |
| 25 | writing at least 60 days before the date of transfer of |
| 26 | ownership. |
| 27 | (b) The new owner shall notify the residents, in |
| 28 | writing, of the transfer of ownership within 7 days after |
| 29 | receipt of the license. |
| 30 | (3) The transferor is responsible and liable for: |

(a) The lawful operation of the facility and the welfare of the residents domiciled in the facility, until the date the transferee is licensed by the agency.

- (b) Each penalty imposed against the facility for any violation that occurred before the date of the transfer of ownership, unless the penalty is a moratorium on admissions or a denial of licensure. A moratorium on admissions or a denial of licensure remains in effect after the transfer of ownership, unless either the agency has approved the transferee's corrective action plan or the conditions that created the moratorium or denial have been corrected, and may be grounds for denial of licensure to the transferee in accordance with chapter 120.
- (c) Any outstanding liability to the state, unless the transferee has agreed, as a condition of sale or transfer, to accept the outstanding liability and to guarantee payment therefor; except that, if the transferee fails to meet these obligations, the transferor remains liable for the outstanding liability.
- (4) The transferor of a facility the license of which is denied pending an administrative hearing shall, as a part of the written transfer-of-ownership contract, advise the transferee that a corrective action plan must be submitted by the transferee and approved by the agency at least 7 days before the transfer of ownership and that failure to correct the condition that resulted in the moratorium on admissions or the denial of licensure is grounds for denial of the transferee's license.
- (5) The transferee must provide the agency with a copy of the record warranty deed or lease agreement before a license may be issued.

4 5

Section 6. Section 400.909, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

400.909 Denial, revocation, or suspension of license; administrative fine.--

- (1) The agency may deny, revoke, or suspend a license issued under this part or impose an administrative fine in the manner provided in chapter 120. At the chapter 120 hearing, the agency must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that its actions are warranted.
- (2) Any of the following actions by a facility or any employee constitutes grounds for action by the agency against a licensee:
- (a) An intentional or negligent act that seriously affects the health, safety, or welfare of a resident of the facility.
- (b) The determination by the agency, pursuant to the information obtained through this part, that the facility owner or administrator is not of suitable character or competency, or that the owner lacks the financial ability, to provide continuing adequate care to residents.
- (c) Misappropriation or conversion of the property of a resident of the facility.
- (d) Five or more repeated or recurring identical or similar class III violations of this part which have been identified by the agency within the last 18 months and which, in the aggregate, affect the health, safety, or welfare of the facility residents.
- (e) A confirmed report of adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation, as defined in s. 415.102, which has been upheld following a chapter 120 hearing or a waiver of such proceedings where the perpetrator is an employee, volunteer,

4 5

administrator, or owner, or otherwise has access to the residents of a facility, and the administrator has not taken action to remove the perpetrator. Exemptions from disqualification may be granted as set forth in s. 435.07.

Administrative action may not be taken against the facility if the perpetrator has been granted an exemption.

- (f) Violation of a moratorium.
- (g) Failure of the licensee to meet minimum license standards or the requirements of rules adopted under this part.
- (h) A fraudulent statement on an application for a license or on any other signed and notarized document required by the agency.
- (i) A false representation or omission of any material fact in making an application for licensure, including submission of an application that conceals the controlling or ownership interest of any officer, director, agent, managing employee, affiliated person, partner, or shareholder who may not be eligible for licensure.
- (j) Having been found by any licensing, certifying, or professional standards board or agency to have violated the standards or conditions relating to licensure or certification or the quality of services provided.
- (k) Being currently excluded, suspended, or terminated from, or having involuntarily withdrawn from, participation in Florida's or any other state's Medicaid program or participation in the Medicare program or any other governmental or private health care or health insurance program.
- (3) The agency may deny a license to an applicant who owns 5 percent or more of, or operates, a facility that has

```
had a license denied, suspended, or revoked pursuant to
    subsection (2) or, during the 2 years immediately before the
2
3
    application for licensure, has had a moratorium imposed on
    admissions, has had an injunctive proceeding initiated against
 4
5
    it, has had a receiver appointed, has been closed due to
6
    financial inability to operate, or has not yet paid a fine
7
    assessed under this part.
8
          (4) An action taken by the agency to suspend, deny, or
9
    revoke a facility's license under this part, in which the
10
    agency claims that the facility owner or an employee has
11
    threatened the health, safety, or welfare of a resident of the
    facility, must be heard by the Division of Administrative
12
    Hearings of the Department of Administration within 120 days
13
    after receipt of the facility's request for a hearing, unless
14
    that time period is waived by both parties.
15
           Section 7. Section 400.910, Florida Statutes, is
16
17
    created to read:
           400.910 Moratorium on admissions. -- The agency may
18
19
    impose an immediate moratorium on admissions to any facility
    when the agency determines that any condition in the facility
20
   presents a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the
21
    residents in the facility. If a facility's license is denied,
22
    revoked, or suspended as a result of a violation of s.
23
24
    400.909, the facility may be subject to immediate imposition
    of a moratorium on admissions to run concurrently with
25
    licensure denial, revocation, or suspension.
26
27
           Section 8. Section 400.911, Florida Statutes, is
28
    created to read:
29
           400.911 Initial license application. --
30
          (1) Application for licensure must be made to the
31
    agency on forms furnished by it and must be accompanied by the
```

4 5

appropriate license fee. The application must contain sufficient information, as required by rule, to establish that the applicant can provide adequate care.

- (2) The application must be under oath and must contain the following:
- (a) The name, address, date of birth, and social security number of the applicant and the name by which the facility is to be known. Pursuant thereto:
- 1. If the applicant is a firm, partnership, or association, the application must contain the name, address, date of birth, and social security number of every member thereof.
- 2. If the applicant is a corporation, the application must contain its name and address; the name, address, date of birth, and social security number of each of its directors and officers; and the name and address of each person who has at least a 5-percent interest in the corporation.
- (b) The name and address of any professional service, firm, association, partnership, or corporation that is to provide goods, leases, or services to the facility for which the application is made, if a 10-percent or greater interest in the service, firm, association, partnership, or corporation is owned by a person whose name must be listed on the application under paragraph (a).
- (c) Information that provides a source to establish the good moral character, financial stability, and competency of the applicant and of each person specified in the application under subparagraph (a)1. or subparagraph (a)2. who has at least a 5-percent interest in the firm, partnership, association, or corporation and, if applicable, of the administrator, including the name and address of any

long-term-care facility with which the applicant or administrator has been affiliated through ownership or employment within the 5 years immediately before the date of the application.

- (d) A signed affidavit disclosing any financial ownership interest that the applicant or any principal, partner, or shareholder thereof holds or has held within the previous 5 years in any other facility licensed under this part, or in any other entity licensed by the state or another state to provide health or residential care, which facility or entity has closed or ceased to operate as a result of financial problems.
- (e) The names and addresses of other persons of whom the agency may inquire as to the character and reputation of the applicant and, if applicable, of the administrator.
- (f) Information relating to the applicant or, if applicable, to the administrator pertaining to any arrest for, or adjudication or conviction of, a crime that relates to providing care in a facility or the ability to operate a facility.
- (g) The names and addresses of other persons of whom the agency may inquire as to the financial responsibility of the applicant.
- (h) Identification of all other homes or facilities, including the addresses and the license or licenses under which they operate, if applicable, which are operated by the applicant and which provide housing, meals, and personal services to adults.
- (i) Such other reasonable information as is required by the agency to evaluate the ability of the applicant to meet the responsibilities imposed under this part.

- (j) The location of the facility for which a license is sought and documentation, signed by the appropriate local government official, stating that the applicant has met local zoning requirements.
- (k) The name, address, date of birth, social security number, education, and experience of the administrator.
- (3) The applicant shall furnish satisfactory proof of financial ability to operate the facility in accordance with the requirements of this part. An applicant applying for an initial license shall submit a balance sheet setting forth the assets and liabilities of the owner and a statement projecting revenues, expenses, taxes, extraordinary items, and other credits or charges for the first 12 months of operation of the facility.
 - (4)(a) As used in this subsection, the term:
- 1. "Applicant" means an individual applicant, or any officer, director, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person, or any partner or shareholder having an ownership interest equal to 5 percent or greater in the corporation, partnership, or other business entity.
- 2. "Managing employee" means the administrator or other similarly titled individual who is responsible for the daily operation of the facility.
- 3. "Affiliated person" means any person who directly or indirectly manages, controls, or oversees the operation of a corporation or other business entity that is a licensee, regardless of whether the person is a partner, shareholder, owner, officer, director, agent, or employee of the entity.
- (b) Upon receipt of a completed, signed, and dated application, the agency shall require background screening,

using the level 2 standards for screening set forth in chapter 435, for the applicant.

- (c) Each applicant must submit to the Department of Law Enforcement the information, including a full set of fingerprints necessary to enable a criminal background investigation to be conducted for a state criminal and juvenile history records check. The Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history records check. Upon completion of the state and national criminal history records checks, the Department of Law Enforcement shall report the findings to the agency. The actual cost of such state and national criminal history records checks must be borne by the applicant.
- (d) Each applicant must submit to the Department of Children and Family Services a complete set of information necessary for conducting records checks through the department's central abuse registry. The actual costs of searching the department's central abuse registry must be borne by the applicant.
- (e) A license may not be granted to any applicant who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, any offense prohibited under the level 2 standards of chapter 435. A license may not be granted to any applicant who has a confirmed report of abuse, neglect, or exploitation as defined in s. 415.102, which has been uncontested or upheld under s. 415.1075, or who has a proposed confirmed report that remains unserved and is maintained in the central abuse registry and tracking system pursuant to s. 415.1065(2)(c).

- (f) The agency shall also require every applicant, as a condition of license application, to submit information concerning any prior violation, fine, suspension, termination, or other administrative action taken under the laws, rules, or regulations of any regulatory body of this state or of any other state or the Federal Government, and of any prior violation of the laws, rules, or regulations relating to the Medicaid or Medicare programs.
- (g) The agency may deny licensure to any applicant
 who:
- 1. Has made a false representation or omission of any material fact in making the application, including the submission of an application that conceals the controlling or ownership interest of any officer, director, agent, managing employee, affiliated person, partner, or shareholder who may not be eligible for licensure.
- 2. Has been found by any licensing, certifying, or professional standards board or agency to have violated the standards or conditions relating to licensure or certification or the quality of services provided.
- 3. Has been or is currently excluded, suspended, or terminated from, or has involuntarily withdrawn from, participation in Florida's Medicaid program or any other state's Medicaid program, or participation in the Medicare program or any other governmental or private health care or health insurance program.
- (h) Upon licensure renewal, each applicant must submit to the agency, under penalty of perjury, an affidavit of compliance with the background screening provisions of this section.

1 (i) Proof of compliance with the level 2 background 2 screening requirements of chapter 435 which has been submitted 3 within the previous 5 years to fulfill any other Florida health care licensure requirements will satisfy the 4 5 requirements of the Department of Law Enforcement and 6 Department of Children and Family Services background check, 7 if the proof of compliance is accompanied, under penalty of 8 perjury, by an affidavit of compliance with these background screening provisions. 9 10 (5) The applicant shall provide proof of liability 11 insurance. 12 (6) A county or municipality may not issue an occupational license that is being obtained for the purpose of 13 operating a facility regulated under this part without first 14 determining that the applicant has been licensed by the agency 15 to operate such a facility at the specified location or 16 17 locations. The agency shall furnish to the local agencies responsible for issuing occupational licenses sufficient 18 19 instruction for making such determinations. Section 9. Section 400.912, Florida Statutes, is 20 21 created to read: 22 400.912 Expiration of license; renewal; conditional 23 license.--24 (1) A license issued for the operation of a facility, unless sooner suspended or revoked, expires automatically 1 25 year after the date of issuance. The agency shall notify the 26 27 facility by certified mail 120 days before the expiration of the license that relicensure is necessary to continue 28 29 operation. Ninety days before the expiration date, an 30 application for renewal must be submitted to the agency. A

license must be renewed by filing an application on forms

```
furnished by the agency, if the applicant has first met the
    requirements established under this part and all rules adopted
2
3
    under this part. The failure to file a timely application
    results in a late fee being charged to the facility in an
 4
5
    amount equal to 50 percent of the fee in effect on the last
    preceding regular renewal date. Late fees must be deposited
6
7
    into the Health Care Trust Fund as provided in s. 400.914. The
8
    facility shall file with the application satisfactory proof of
    ability to operate the facility in accordance with the
9
    requirements of this part. If an applicant for renewal of a
10
11
    license has complied on the initial license application with
    the provisions of s. 400.911 with respect to proof of
12
    financial ability to operate, the applicant is not required to
13
    provide proof of financial ability on renewal applications,
14
    unless the facility or any other facility owned or operated in
15
    whole or in part by the same person or business entity has
16
17
    demonstrated financial instability as evidenced by bad checks,
    delinquent accounts, or nonpayment of withholding taxes,
18
19
    utility expenses, or other essential services or unless the
    agency suspects that the facility is not financially stable as
20
21
    a result of review or inspection. Each facility shall report
    to the agency any adverse court action concerning the
22
    facility's financial viability within 7 days after its
23
24
    occurrence. The agency must be given access to books, records,
    and any other financial documents maintained by the facility
25
    to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of this
26
27
    section. A license for the operation of a facility must not be
    renewed if the licensee has any outstanding fines assessed
28
29
    under this part which are in final order status.
30
          (2) Upon application for renewal of a license, the
    applicant must submit to the agency, under penalty of perjury,
31
```

12

13

14

15

16 17

18 19

2021

22

2324

25

2627

28 29

30

31

```
an affidavit of compliance with the background screening
    provisions of this part. Proof of compliance with the level 2
2
3
   background screening requirements of chapter 435 which has
    been submitted within the previous 5 years to fulfill any
 4
5
    other Florida health care licensure requirements will satisfy
    the requirements of the Department of Law Enforcement and
6
7
    Department of Children and Family Services background check if
8
    the proof of compliance is accompanied, under penalty of
    perjury, by an affidavit of compliance with these background
9
10
    screening provisions.
```

- (3) A licensee against whom a revocation or suspension proceeding is pending at the time of license renewal may be issued a conditional license effective until final disposition by the agency of such proceeding. If judicial relief is sought from the final disposition, the court having jurisdiction may issue a conditional license for the duration of the judicial proceeding.
- applicant for license renewal when the applicant fails to meet a standard or requirement for licensure. A conditional license issued under this subsection must be limited in duration to a specified period not to exceed 6 months, as determined by the agency, and must be accompanied by an approved corrective action plan.

Section 10. Section 400.913, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

400.913 Reports of abuse in facilities.--When an employee, volunteer, administrator, or owner of a facility has a confirmed report of adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation, as defined in s. 415.102, and the protective investigator knows that such person is an employee, volunteer,

administrator, or owner of a facility, the protective investigator must notify the agency of the confirmed report. 2 3 Section 11. Section 400.914, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 4 5 400.914 Disposition of fees and administrative 6 fines. --7 Income from license fees, late fees, and (1) 8 administrative fines which is generated under ss. 400.907, 9 400.909, 400.912, 400.915, 400.916, 400.926, and 400.927 must 10 be deposited in the Health Care Trust Fund administered by the 11 agency. Such funds must be directed to and used by the agency for the following purposes: 12 (a) Up to 50 percent of the trust funds accrued each 13 fiscal year under this part may be used to offset the expenses 14 of receivership, pursuant to s. 400.919, if the court 15 determines that the income and assets of the facility are 16 17 insufficient to provide for adequate management and operation. The balance of trust funds accrued each year under 18 19 this part must be used to offset the costs of the licensure program, including the costs of verifying information 20 21 submitted and conducting inspections and monitoring visits under this part and part II of chapter 413. 22 Income from fees which is generated pursuant to s. 23 (2) 24 400.928(3) must be deposited in the Health Care Trust Fund and 25 used to offset the costs of printing and postage. Section 12. Section 400.915, Florida Statutes, is 26 27 created to read: 400.915 Violations; penalties.--28 29 (1)(a) If the agency determines that a facility is not 30 in compliance with minimum standards or the requirements of rules adopted under this part, including the failure to report 31

evidence of the facility's financial instability or the operation of a facility without a license, the agency, as an alternative to or in conjunction with an administrative action against the facility and before written notification thereof, shall make a reasonable attempt to discuss with the facility owner or administrator each violation and recommended corrective action. The agency, instead of fixing a period within which the facility must enter into compliance with the standards and rules, may request that the facility submit a corrective action plan that demonstrates a good-faith effort to remedy each violation by a specified date, subject to the approval of the agency.

- (b) Any facility owner or administrator who is found to be in violation of this part, including any individual operating a facility without a license, is subject to a civil penalty to be imposed by the agency under this section.
- (c) Each day during which any person violates any provision of this part after the date fixed for termination of the violation by applicable statute, rule, or order of the agency constitutes an additional, separate, and distinct violation.
- (d) Any action taken to correct a violation must be documented in writing by the administrator and verified through subsequent visits by designated agency personnel. The agency may impose a civil penalty under this section and, in the case of an owner-operated facility, revoke a facility's license when an administrator fraudulently misrepresents action taken to correct a violation.
- (e) If a facility desires to appeal any agency action imposing a civil penalty under this section, it must send a written request for a hearing to the agency within 15 days

action. If the civil penalty is upheld, the facility must pay the fine, plus interest at the legal rate as specified in s.

687.01, for each day beyond the date set by the agency for payment of the fine.

- (2) In determining whether a penalty is to be imposed and in fixing the amount of the penalty, if any, for a violation, the agency shall consider the following factors:
- (a) The gravity of the violation, including the probability that death or serious physical or emotional harm to a resident will result or has resulted, the severity of the action or potential harm, and the extent to which the provisions of the applicable statutes or rules were violated.
- (b) Actions taken by the owner or administrator to correct violations.
 - (c) Any previous violations.
- (d) The financial benefit to the facility of committing or continuing the violation.
 - (e) The licensed residental capacity of the facility.
- (3) Each violation must be classified according to the nature of the violation and the gravity of its probable effect on the residents of the facility. The agency shall indicate the classification of each violation on the face of the notice of the violation, as follows:
- (a) Class I violations are those conditions or occurrences related to the operation and maintenance of a facility or to the personal care of residents which the agency determines present an imminent danger to the residents or guests of the facility or a substantial probability that death or serious physical or emotional harm will result therefrom. The condition or practice constituting a class I violation

must be abated or eliminated within 24 hours, unless a different fixed period, as determined by the agency, is required for correction. A class I violation is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000 for each violation. The penalty may be imposed notwithstanding the correction of the violation.

- (b) Class II violations are those conditions or occurrences, other than class I violations, related to the operation and maintenance of a facility or to the personal care of residents which the agency determines directly threaten the physical or emotional health, safety, or security of the residents. A class II violation is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000 for each violation. A citation for a class II violation must specify the time within which the violation must be corrected. If a class II violation is corrected within the specified time, a penalty may not be imposed, unless the violation is a repeat offense.
- (c) Class III violations are those conditions or occurrences, other than class I or class II violations, related to the operation and maintenance of a facility or to the personal care of residents which the agency determines indirectly or potentially threaten the physical or emotional health, safety, or security of the residents. A class III violation is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 for each violation. A citation for a class III violation must specify the time within which the violation must be corrected. If a class III violation is corrected within the specified time, a penalty may not be imposed, unless it is a repeat offense.

- (d) Class IV violations are those conditions or occurrences related to the operation and maintenance of a building, or to required reports, forms, or documents, which do not have the potential to negatively affect residents.

 These violations are of a type that the agency determines do not threaten the health, safety, or security of the residents of the facility. A facility that does not correct a class IV violation within the time limit specified in the agency-approved corrective action plan is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$50 and not more than \$200 for each violation. Any class IV violation that is corrected during the survey will be identified as an agency finding and not as a violation.
- (4) The agency may impose a fine not to exceed \$500 for each violation that cannot be classified according to subsection (3). Such fines, in the aggregate, may not exceed \$5,000.
- (5) The proceeds of civil penalties paid by any facility under subsections (3) and (4) must be deposited into the Health Care Trust Fund and expended as provided in s. 400.914.
- (6) The agency shall develop and disseminate an annual list of all facilities that have been sanctioned or fined in excess of \$500 for violations of this part, the number and class of violations involved, the penalties imposed, and the current status of cases. The list must be forwarded, at no charge, to the division. The agency may charge a fee commensurate with the cost of printing and postage to any other interested party that requests a copy of this list.

 Section 13. Section 400.916, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

| 1 | 400.916 Rebates prohibited; penalties |
|----|--|
| 2 | (1) It is unlawful for any facility that is licensed |
| 3 | under this part to contract or promise to pay or receive any |
| 4 | commission, bonus, kickback, or rebate or to engage in any |
| 5 | split-fee arrangement in any form whatsoever with any |
| 6 | physician, surgeon, organization, agency, or person, either |
| 7 | directly or indirectly, for residents referred to a facility |
| 8 | licensed under this part. A facility may employ or contract |
| 9 | with a person to market the facility if the designated |
| 10 | employee or contract provider clearly indicates that he or she |
| 11 | represents the facility. A person or agent independent of the |
| 12 | facility may provide placement or referral services for a fee |
| 13 | to individuals seeking assistance in finding a suitable |
| 14 | facility; however, any fee paid for placement or referral |
| 15 | services must be paid by the individual who is looking for a |
| 16 | facility, not by the facility. |
| 17 | (2) The agency, in consultation with the division, |
| 18 | shall adopt rules that impose administrative penalties for |
| 19 | acts prohibited by subsection (1). |
| 20 | Section 14. Section 400.917, Florida Statutes, is |
| 21 | created to read: |
| 22 | 400.917 Certain solicitation prohibited; third-party |
| 23 | supplementation |
| 24 | (1) A person may not, in connection with the |
| 25 | solicitation of contributions by or on behalf of a facility, |
| 26 | misrepresent or mislead any person, by any manner, means, |
| 27 | practice, or device whatsoever, to believe that the receipts |
| 28 | of such solicitation will be used for charitable purposes if |
| 29 | that is not the case. |
| 30 | (2) Solicitation of contributions of any kind in a |
| 31 | threatening, coercive, or unduly forceful manner by or on |

behalf of a facility by any agent, employee, owner, or representative of any facility is grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the license of the facility by or on behalf of which such solicitation was made.

- (3) The admissions or maintenance of facility residents whose care is supported, in whole or in part, by state funds may not be conditioned upon the receipt of any contribution or donation from any person. The solicitation or receipt of contributions in violation of this subsection is grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of license, as provided in s. 400.909, for any facility by or on behalf of which such contributions were solicited.
- (4) A facility may accept additional supplementation from third parties on behalf of residents who are receiving optional state supplementation in accordance with s. 409.212.

Section 15. Section 400.918, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

400.918 Injunctive proceedings.--

- (1) The agency may institute injunctive proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction to:
- (a) Enforce the provisions of this part or any minimum standard, rule, or order issued or entered into pursuant thereto when the attempt by the agency to correct a violation through administrative fines has failed or when the violation materially affects the health, safety, or welfare of residents; or
- (b) Terminate the operation of a facility when violations of any provision of this part or of any standard or rule adopted pursuant thereto exist which materially affect the health, safety, or welfare of residents.

(2) Such injunctive relief may be temporary or
permanent.
(3) The Legislature recognizes that, in some

instances, action is necessary to protect residents of facilities from immediate, life-threatening situations. In such a case, the court may allow a temporary injunction without bond or proper proof being made. If it appears by competent evidence or a sworn, substantiated affidavit that a temporary injunction should issue, the court, pending the determination on final hearing, shall enjoin operation of the facility.

Section 16. Section 400.919, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

400.919 Receivership proceeding.--

- (1) As an alternative to or in conjunction with an injunctive proceeding, the agency may petition a court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a receiver, if suitable alternative placements are not available, when any of the following conditions exist:
- (a) The facility is operating without a license and refuses to make application for a license as required by s. 400.907.
- (b) The facility is closing or has informed the agency that it intends to close, and adequate arrangements have not been made for relocation of the residents within 7 days, exclusive of weekends and holidays, after the closing of the facility.
- (c) The agency determines that conditions exist in the facility which present an imminent danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the residents or a substantial

3

4 5

6

7

8

9

11

12

13

14

15

16 17

18 19

2021

22

2324

25

2627

28 29

30

31

probability that death or serious physical harm may result therefrom.

- (d) The facility cannot meet its financial obligation to provide food, shelter, care, and utilities.
- (2) Petitions for receivership take precedence over the other court business, unless the court determines that some other pending proceeding, having similar statutory precedence, has priority. A hearing must be conducted within 5 days after the filing of the petition, at which time all interested parties must be given the opportunity to present evidence pertaining to the petition. The agency shall notify, by certified mail, the owner or administrator of the facility named in the petition and the facility residents or, if applicable, the residents' representatives or designees, or the residents' surrogates, guardians, or attorneys in fact, of its filing, the substance of the violation, and the date and place set for the hearing. The court shall grant the petition only upon finding that the health, safety, or welfare of residents will be threatened if a condition existing at the time the petition was filed is permitted to continue. A receiver may not be appointed ex parte unless the court determines that one or more of the conditions in subsection (1) exists; the facility owner or administrator cannot be found; all reasonable means of locating the owner or administrator and notifying him or her of the petition and hearing have been exhausted; or the owner or administrator, after notification of the hearing, chooses not to attend. After such findings, the court may appoint any qualified person as a receiver, except that it may not appoint any owner or affiliate of the facility that is in receivership. The

receiver may be selected from a list of persons qualified to

act as receivers prepared by the agency and presented to the court with each petition for receivership. The agency or designated agency employee may be appointed as a receiver for up to 60 days. The court may grant a 30-day extension upon a showing of good cause.

- (3) The receiver must make provision for the continued health, safety, and welfare of all residents of the facility and:
- (a) Shall exercise those powers and perform those duties set out by the court.
- (b) Shall operate the facility in such a manner as to assure safety and adequate health care for the residents.
- (c) Shall take such actions as are reasonably necessary to protect or conserve the assets or property of the facility for which the receiver is appointed, or the proceeds from any transfer thereof, and may use them only in the performance of the powers and duties set forth in this section and by order of the court.
- (d) May use the building, fixtures, furnishings, and any accompanying consumable goods in the provision of care and services to residents and to any other persons who were receiving services from the facility at the time the petition for receivership was filed. The receiver shall collect payments for all goods and services that are provided to residents or others during the period of the receivership at the same rate of payment charged by the owner at the time the petition for receivership was filed, or at a fair and reasonable rate otherwise approved by the court.
- (e) May correct or eliminate any deficiency in the structure or furnishings of the facility which endangers the safety or health of residents while they remain in the

facility, if the total cost of correction does not exceed \$10,000. The court may order expenditures for this purpose in excess of \$10,000 on application from the receiver after notice to the owner and a hearing.

- (f) May let contracts and hire agents and employees to carry out the powers and duties of the receiver.
- (g) Shall honor all leases, mortgages, and secured transactions governing the building in which the facility is located and all goods and fixtures in the building of which the receiver has taken possession, but only to the extent of payments that, in the case of a rental agreement, are for the use of the property during the period of the receivership, or that, in the case of a purchase agreement, become due during the period of the receivership.
- (h) Shall have full power to direct and manage the facility and to discharge employees of the facility, subject to any contract rights they may have. The receiver shall pay employees at the rate of compensation, including benefits, approved by the court. A receivership does not relieve the owner of any obligation to employees made before the appointment of a receiver and not carried out by the receiver.
- (i) Shall be entitled to and take possession of all property or assets of residents which are in the possession of a facility or its owner. The receiver shall preserve all property, assets, and records of residents of which the receiver takes possession and shall provide for the prompt transfer of the property, assets, and records to the new placement of any transferred resident. An inventory list certified by the owner and receiver must be made immediately at the time the receiver takes possession of the facility.

(4)(a) A person who is served with notice of an order of the court appointing a receiver and of the receiver's name and address is liable to pay the receiver for any goods or services provided by the receiver after the date of the order if the person would have been liable for the goods or services as supplied by the owner. The receiver shall give a receipt for each payment and shall keep a copy of each receipt on file. The receiver shall deposit accounts received in a separate account and shall use this account for all disbursements.

- (b) The receiver may bring an action to enforce the liability created by paragraph (a).
- (c) A payment to the receiver of any sum owing to the facility or its owner discharges any obligation to the facility to the extent of the payment.
- (5)(a) A receiver may petition the court that the receiver not be required to honor any lease, mortgage, secured transaction, or other wholly or partially executory contract entered into by the owner if the rent, price, or rate of interest required to be paid under the agreement was substantially in excess of a reasonable rent, price, or rate of interest at the time the contract was entered into, or if any material provision of the agreement was unreasonable compared to contracts negotiated under similar conditions. Any relief in this form provided by the court is limited to the life of the receivership, unless otherwise determined by the court.
- (b) If the receiver is in possession of real estate or goods subject to a lease, mortgage, or security interest that the receiver has obtained a court order to avoid under paragraph (a), and if the real estate or goods are necessary

20 21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

for the continued operation of the facility under this section, the receiver may apply to the court to set a 2 3 reasonable rental, price, or rate of interest to be paid by the receiver during the duration of the receivership. The 4 5 court shall hold a hearing on the application within 15 days. 6 The receiver shall send notice of the application to any known 7 persons who own the property involved at least 10 days before 8 the hearing. Payment by the receiver of the amount determined by the court to be reasonable is a defense to any action 9 10 against the receiver for payment or for possession of the 11 goods or real estate subject to the lease, security interest, or mortgage involved by any person who received the notice, 12 but the payment does not relieve the owner of the facility of 13 any liability for the difference between the amount paid by 14 the receiver and the amount due under the original lease, 15 security interest, or mortgage involved. 16 17 The court shall set the compensation of the 18

- receiver, which is considered a necessary expense of a receivership.
- (7) A receiver may be held liable in a personal capacity only for the receiver's own gross negligence, intentional acts, or breach of fiduciary duty.
 - The court may require a receiver to post a bond. (8)
- The court may direct the agency to allocate funds from the Health Care Trust Fund to the receiver, subject to s. 400.914.
 - (10) The court may terminate a receivership when:
- The court determines that the receivership is no longer necessary because the conditions that gave rise to the receivership no longer exist or the agency grants the facility a new license; or

- (b) All of the residents in the facility have been transferred or discharged.
- (11) Within 30 days after termination, the receiver shall give the court a complete accounting of all property of which the receiver has taken possession, all funds collected, and the expenses of the receivership.
- (12) This section does not relieve any owner, administrator, or employee of a facility placed in receivership of any civil or criminal liability incurred, or any duty imposed by law, by reason of acts or omissions of the owner, administrator, or employee before the appointment of a receiver; nor does this section suspend during the receivership any obligation of the owner, administrator, or employee for the payment of taxes or other operating and maintenance expenses of the facility or any obligation of the owner, administrator, employee, or any other person for the payment of mortgages or liens. The owner retains the right to sell or mortgage any facility under receivership, subject to the approval of the court that ordered the receivership.

Section 17. Section 400.920, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

400.920 Contracts.--

(1) The presence of each resident in a facility must be covered by a contract, executed at the time of admission or prior thereto, between the licensee and the resident or the resident's designee or legal representative. Each party to the contract shall be provided with a duplicate original thereof, and the licensee shall keep on file in the facility all such contracts. The licensee may not destroy or otherwise dispose of any such contract until 5 years after its expiration or

such longer period as may be provided in rules adopted under this part.

- (2) Each contract shall contain express provisions specifically setting forth the services and accommodations to be provided by the facility; the rates or charges; provision for at least 30 days' notice of a rate increase; the rights, duties, and obligations of the residents, other than those specified in s. 400.924; and other matters that the parties consider appropriate. When money is deposited or advanced by a resident in a contract as security for performance of the contract agreement or as advance rent for other than the next immediate rental period:
- (a) The funds must be held in a banking institution in this state. The funds must be kept separate from the funds and property of the facility; must be deposited in a bank savings association, trust company, or credit union located in this state and, if possible, located in the same district in which the facility is located; must not be represented as part of the assets of the facility on financial statements; and must be used, or otherwise expended, only for the account of the resident.
- (b) The licensee shall, within 30 days after receipt of advance rent or a security deposit, notify the resident in writing of the manner in which the licensee is holding the advance rent or security deposit and state the name and address of the depository where the moneys are being held. The licensee shall notify residents of the facility's policy on advance deposits.
- (c) If a licensee agrees to reserve a bed for a resident who is admitted to a medical facility, the resident or the resident's responsible party shall notify the licensee

of any change in status which would prevent the resident from returning to the facility. Until such notice is received, the agreed-upon daily rate may be charged by the licensee.

- (d) The purpose of any advance payment and a refund policy for such payment, including any advance payment for meals, lodging, or personal services, must be stated in the contract.
- (3) The contract must state whether or not the facility is affiliated with any religious organization, the name of such organization, and its general responsibility to the facility.
- (4) A contract or provision thereof may not be construed to relieve any licensee of any requirement or obligation imposed upon it by this part or by standards or rules in force pursuant thereto.
- (5) A lease may be substituted for the contract if it meets the disclosure requirements of this section.

Section 18. Section 400.921, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

400.921 Use of licensed personnel.--

(1) Persons under contract to the facility, facility staff, or volunteers, who are licensed according to chapter 464, or those persons exempt under s. 464.022(1), and others as defined by rule, may administer medications to residents, take residents' vital signs, manage individual weekly pill organizers for residents who self-administer medication, give prepackaged enemas ordered by a physician, observe residents, document observations on the appropriate resident's record, report observations to the resident's physician, and contract or allow residents or a resident's representative, designee, surrogate, guardian, or attorney-in-fact to contract with a

third party, provided that residents meet the criteria for appropriate placement as defined in s. 400.922. Nursing assistants certified under s. 400.211 may take residents' vital signs as directed by a licensed nurse or physician.

- (2) All staff in facilities licensed under this part shall exercise their professional responsibility to observe residents, to document observations on the appropriate resident's record, and to report the observations to the resident's physician. However, the facility owner or administrator is responsible for determining that the resident receiving services is appropriate for residence in the facility.
- (3) In an emergency situation, licensed personnel may carry out their professional duties under chapter 464 until emergency medical personnel assume responsibility for care.

Section 19. Section 400.922, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

400.922 Appropriateness of placements; examination of residents.--

(1) The facility owner or administrator is responsible for determining the appropriateness of admission of an individual to the facility and for determining the continued appropriateness of residence of an individual in the facility. Such a determination must be based upon an assessment of the strengths, needs, and preferences of the resident, the care and services offered or arranged for by the facility in accordance with facility policy, and any limitations in law or rule related to admission criteria or continued residency for the type of license held by the facility under this part. A resident may not be moved from one facility to another without consultation with and agreement by the resident or, if

applicable, the resident's representative or designee or the resident's family, guardian, surrogate, or attorney-in-fact.

- (2) A physician or nurse practitioner employed by or under contract with a facility to provide an initial examination for admission purposes may not have a financial interest in the facility.
- employed by or under contract with a facility shall, on a routine basis, or at least monthly, perform a nursing assessment of the residents for whom they are providing nursing services ordered by a physician, except administration of medication, and shall document the assessment, including any substantial change in a resident's status which may necessitate relocation to a nursing home, hospital, or specialized health care facility. These records must be maintained in the facility for inspection by the agency and must be forwarded to the resident's case manager, if applicable.
- (4) If possible, each resident must have been examined by a licensed physician or a licensed nurse practitioner within 60 days before admission to the facility. The signed and completed medical examination report must be submitted to the facility owner or administrator, who shall use the information contained in the report to assist in the determination of the appropriateness of the resident's admission and continued stay in the facility. The medical examination report is to be a permanent part of the record of the resident at the facility and must be made available to the agency during inspection or upon request.
- (5) If a medical examination has not been completed within 60 days before the admission of the resident, a

licensed physician or licensed nurse practitioner shall examine the resident and complete a medical examination form 2 3 provided by the agency within 30 days following the resident's admission, to enable the facility owner or administrator to 4 5 determine the appropriateness of the admission. The medical 6 examination form is to become a permanent part of the record 7 of the resident at the facility and must be made available to 8 the agency during inspection or upon request. (6) If, at any time after admission, a resident 9 10 appears to need care beyond that which the facility is 11 licensed to provide, the agency shall require the resident to be physically examined by a licensed physician or licensed 12 nurse practitioner or evaluated by an appropriate mental 13 health professional, as defined in s. 394.455(2); such an 14 examination must, to the extent possible, be performed by the 15 resident's preferred physician or nurse practitioner or mental 16 17 health professional and must be paid for by the source that is funding the resident's stay at the facility. A facility may 18 19 not retain any resident who requires more services or care than the facility is able to provide in accordance with its 20 21 policies and criteria for admission and continued residency. Any resident who is determined by such a professional 22 examination to be inappropriately residing in a facility shall 23 24 be given 30 days' written notice to relocate by the facility owner or administrator, unless the resident's continued 25 residence in the facility presents an imminent danger to the 26 27 health, safety, or welfare of the resident or a substantial probability exists that death or serious physical harm could 28 29 result to the resident if he or she were allowed to remain in 30 the facility.

(7) A resident who requires 24-hour nursing
supervision may not be retained in a facility licensed under
this part.

Section 20. Section 400.923, Florida Statutes, is
created to read:

400.923 Property and personal affairs of residents; penalty.--

- (1)(a) A resident shall be given the option of using his or her own belongings, as space permits; choosing a roommate; and, whenever possible, unless the resident is adjudicated incompetent or incapacitated under state law, managing his or her own affairs.
- (b) The admission of a resident to a facility and the resident's presence therein does not confer on the facility or on its owner, administrator, employees, or representatives any authority to manage, use, or dispose of any property of the resident; nor does such admission or presence confer on any of those persons any authority or responsibility for the personal affairs of the resident, except that which may be necessary for the safe management of the facility or for the safety of the resident.
- (2) A facility, or an owner, administrator, employee, or representative thereof, may not act as the guardian, trustee, or conservator for any resident or for any of the resident's property.
- (3) A facility, upon mutual consent with the resident, shall provide for the safekeeping in the facility of personal effects not in excess of \$500 and funds of the resident not in excess of \$200 cash. A facility shall keep complete and accurate records of all such funds and personal effects received for safekeeping. When a resident is absent from a

4 5

6

7

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15

16 17

18 19

2021

22

23

24

2526

27

28

29

facility for 24 hours or more, the facility may provide for the safekeeping of the resident's personal effects in excess of \$500.

- (4) Any personal funds available to residents may be used by residents as they choose to obtain clothing, personal items, leisure activities, and other supplies and services for their personal use. A facility may not demand, require, or contract for payment of all or any part of the personal funds in satisfaction of the facility rate for supplies and services beyond that amount agreed to in writing and may not levy an additional charge to the resident or the account for any supplies or services that the facility has agreed by contract to provide as part of the standard monthly rate. Any supplemental service or supplies provided by the facility which are charged separately to the resident or the account may be provided only with the resident's specific advance approval. An itemized written approval statement must be attached to the contract setting forth the charges for the services or supplies.
- (5) In addition to any damages or civil penalties to which a person is subject, any person who:
- (a) Intentionally withholds a resident's personal funds or personal property, or who demands, beneficially receives, or contracts for payment of all or any part of a resident's personal property in satisfaction of the facility rate for supplies and services; or
- (b) Borrows from or pledges any personal funds of a resident, other than the amount agreed to by written contract under s. 400.920,

 commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

refunds, funds, and property to the resident's spouse or adult next of kin named in a beneficiary designation form provided by the facility to the resident. If the resident has no spouse or adult next of kin, or such person cannot be located, funds that are due the resident must be placed in an interest-bearing account and must be safeguarded until such time as the funds and property are disbursed pursuant to the Florida Probate Code. The funds shall be kept separate from the funds and property of the facility and of other residents of the facility. If the funds of the deceased resident are not disbursed pursuant to the Florida Probate Code within 2 years after the resident's death, the funds must be deposited in the Health Care Trust Fund as provided in s. 400.914.

Section 21. Section 400.924, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

400.924 Resident bill of rights.--

- (1) A resident of a facility shall not be deprived of any civil or legal rights, benefits, or privileges guaranteed by law, the State Constitution, or the United States

 Constitution as a resident of a facility. Every resident of a facility has the right to:
- (a) Live in a safe and decent living environment, free from abuse and neglect.
- (b) Be treated with consideration and respect and with due recognition of personal dignity, individuality, and the need for privacy.
- 30 <u>(c) Retain and use his or her own clothes and other</u>
 31 personal property in his or her immediate living quarters, so

as to maintain individuality and personal dignity, except when the facility can demonstrate that this would be unsafe, impracticable, or an infringement upon the rights of other residents.

- (d) Unrestricted private communication, including receiving and sending unopened correspondence, access to a telephone, and visiting with any person of his or her choice, at any time between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. at a minimum. Upon request, the facility shall make provisions to extend visiting hours for caregivers and out-of-town guests.
- (e) Freedom to participate in and benefit from community services and activities and to achieve the highest possible level of independence, autonomy, and interaction within the community.
 - (f) Manage his or her financial affairs.
- (g) Reasonable opportunity for regular exercise several times a week and to be outdoors at regular and frequent intervals, except when prevented by inclement weather.
- (h) Exercise civil and religious liberties, including the right to make independent personal decisions. A religious beliefs or practices, or any attendance at religious services, may not be imposed upon any resident.
- (i) Access to adequate and appropriate health care consistent with established and recognized standards within the community.
- (j) At least 30 days' notice of relocation or termination of residency from the facility, unless, for medical reasons, the resident is certified by a physician to require emergency relocation to a facility that provides a more skilled level of care or unless the resident engages in a

pattern of conduct that is harmful or offensive to other residents. In the case of a resident who has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated, the guardian shall be given at least 30 days' notice of a nonemergency relocation or residency termination. Reasons for relocation must be set forth in writing. To terminate the residency of an individual without the notice required in this paragraph, the facility must show good cause in a court of competent jurisdiction.

- (k) Present grievances and recommend changes in policies, procedures, and services to the staff of the facility, governing officials, or any other person without restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal. Each facility shall establish a grievance procedure to facilitate the resident's exercise of this right. This right includes access to volunteers and advocates and the right to be a member of, to be active in, and to associate with advocacy or special interest groups.
- (2) The administrator of a facility shall ensure that a written notice of the rights, obligations, and prohibitions set forth in this part is posted in a prominent place in each facility and read or explained to residents who cannot read. This notice must include the name, address, and telephone numbers of the central abuse registry, the Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc., and the district human rights advocacy committee, where complaints may be lodged. The facility must ensure a resident's access to a telephone to call the central abuse registry, the Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc., and the district human rights advocacy committee.
- (3) The facility shall not hinder or prevent residents from exercising their rights as specified in this section.

2930

31

1 (4) A facility or employee of a facility may not serve 2 notice upon a resident to leave the premises or take any other 3 retaliatory action against any person who: Exercises any right set forth in this section. 4 5 Appears as witness in any hearing, inside or 6 outside the facility. 7 (c) Files a civil action alleging a violation of this 8 part or notifies a state attorney or the Attorney General of a 9 possible violation. 10 11 Any facility that terminates the residency of an individual who participates in any of the activities specified in this 12 subsection shall show good cause in a court of competent 13 14 jurisdiction. (5) Any person who submits or reports a complaint 15 concerning a suspected violation of this part or concerning 16 17 services and conditions in a facility, or who testifies in any administrative or judicial proceeding arising from such a 18 19 complaint, is immune from any civil or criminal liability therefor, unless the person has acted in bad faith or with 20 21 malicious purpose or the court finds that there was a complete 22 absence of a justiciable issue of either law or fact raised by 23 the losing party. 24 Section 22. Section 400.925, Florida Statutes, is 25 created to read: 26 400.925 Civil actions to enforce rights.--Any person 27 or resident whose rights as specified in this part are

violated has a cause of action against any facility owner,

administrator, or staff responsible for the violation. The

action may be brought by the resident or the resident's

resident with the consent of the resident or the resident's guardian, or by the personal representative of the estate of a 2 3 deceased resident when the cause of death resulted from a violation of the decedent's rights, to enforce such rights. 4 5 The action may be brought in any court of competent 6 jurisdiction to enforce such rights and to recover actual 7 damages, and punitive damages when malicious, wanton, or 8 willful disregard of the rights of others can be shown. Any plaintiff who prevails in any such action is entitled to 9 10 recover reasonable attorney's fees, costs of the action, and 11 damages, unless the court finds that the plaintiff has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose or that there was a 12 complete absence of a justiciable issue of either law or fact. 13 A prevailing defendant may be entitled to recover reasonable 14 attorney's fees under s. 57.105. The remedies provided in this 15 section are in addition to and cumulative with other legal and 16 17 administrative remedies available to a resident or to the 18 agency. 19 Section 23. Section 400.926, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 20 21 400.926 Right of entry and inspection. -- Any designated officer or employee of the agency, or the state or local fire 22 marshal, may enter unannounced upon and into the premises of 23 any facility licensed under this part in order to determine 24 the state of compliance with this part and the rules or 25 standards in force under this part. The right of entry and 26 27 inspection also extends to any premises that the agency has reason to believe are being operated or maintained as a 28 29 facility without a license; but such an entry or inspection 30 may not be made without the permission of the owner or person 31 in charge thereof unless a warrant is first obtained from the

```
circuit court authorizing such entry. The warrant requirement
    extends only to a facility that the agency has reason to
2
3
   believe is being operated or maintained as a facility without
    a license. Any application for a license or renewal thereof
 4
5
    which is made under this part constitutes permission for, and
6
    complete acquiescence in, any entry or inspection of the
7
    premises for which the license is sought, in order to
8
    facilitate verification of the information submitted on or in
    connection with the application; to discover, investigate, and
9
10
    determine the existence of abuse or neglect; or to elicit,
11
    receive, respond to, and resolve complaints. Any current valid
    license constitutes unconditional permission for, and complete
12
    acquiescence in, any entry or inspection of the premises by
13
    authorized personnel. The agency retains the right of entry
14
    and inspection of facilities that have had a license revoked
15
    or suspended within the previous 24 months, to ensure that the
16
    facility is not operating unlawfully. However, before entering
17
    the facility, a statement of probable cause must be filed with
18
19
    the director of the agency, who must approve or disapprove the
    action within 48 hours. Probable cause includes, but is not
20
    limited to, evidence that the facility holds itself out to the
21
    public as a provider of personal assistance services or the
22
    receipt of a complaint by the advisory council on brain and
23
    spinal cord injuries about the facility.
24
           Section 24. Section 400.927, Florida Statutes, is
25
    created to read:
26
           400.927 Closing of facility; notice; penalty.--
27
28
          (1) When a facility voluntarily discontinues
29
    operation, it must inform the agency in writing at least 90
30
    days before discontinuing the operation. The facility must
    also inform each resident, next of kin, or legal
31
```

 representative of the fact and the proposed time of the discontinuance, following the notification requirements provided in s. 400.924(1)(j). If a resident has no person to represent him or her, the facility is responsible for referral of that resident to an appropriate social service agency for placement.

- (2) All charges must be prorated as of the date on which the facility discontinues operation, and if any payments have been made in advance, the payments for services not received must be refunded to the resident's guardian within 10 working days after voluntary or involuntary closure of the facility, whether or not such a refund is requested by the resident or guardian.
- (3) Immediately upon discontinuance of the operation of a facility, the owner shall surrender the license therefor to the agency, and the license shall be canceled.
- exceed \$10,000 upon each person or business entity that owns any interest in a facility that terminates operation without providing notice to the agency and the facility's residents at least 30 days before operation is discontinued. This fine must not be levied against any facility that is involuntarily closed at the initiation of the agency. The agency shall use the proceeds of the fines to operate the facility until all residents are relocated and shall deposit any balance of the proceeds into the Health Care Trust Fund established under s. 400.914.

Section 25. Section 400.928, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

400.928 Rules establishing standards.--

1 (1) Pursuant to the intention of the Legislature to provide safe and sanitary facilities, rules to implement this 2 3 part must include reasonable and fair minimum standards in 4 relation to: 5 The maintenance of facilities, not in conflict (a) 6 with the provisions of chapter 553, relating to plumbing, 7 heating, lighting, ventilation, and other housing conditions, 8 to ensure the health, safety, and comfort of residents and protection from fire hazard, including adequate provisions for 9 fire alarm and other fire protection suitable to the size of 10 11 the structure. Uniform fire safety standards must be established and enforced by the State Fire Marshal in 12 cooperation with the agency and the division. Facilities that 13 are fully equipped with sprinklers and in compliance with 14 other fire safety standards need not conduct more than one of 15 the required fire drills between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 16 17 a.m., per year. In lieu of the remaining drills, staff responsible for residents during such hours shall participate 18 19 in a mock drill that includes a review of evacuation procedures. The agency shall not duplicate fire inspections 20 21 performed by state or local fire marshals. Such standards must be included or referenced in the rules adopted by the 22 department after consultation with the State Fire Marshal. 23 24 Pursuant to s. 633.022(1)(b), the State Fire Marshal is the final administrative authority for fire safety standards 25 established and enforced under this section. 26 27 The preparation and annual update of a (b) comprehensive emergency management plan. Such standards must 28 29 be included in the rules adopted by the department after 30 consultation with the Department of Community Affairs. At a 31 minimum, the rules must provide for plan components that

2021

22

2324

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

address emergency evacuation; transportation; adequate sheltering arrangements; postdisaster activities, including 2 3 emergency power, food, and water; postdisaster transportation; supplies; staffing; emergency equipment; individual 4 5 identification of residents and transfer of records; 6 communicating with families; and responding to family inquiries. The comprehensive emergency management plan is 7 8 subject to review and approval by the local emergency 9 management agency. During its review, the local emergency 10 management agency shall ensure that the following agencies, at 11 a minimum, are given the opportunity to review the plan: the agency, the division, and the Department of Community Affairs. 12 Also, appropriate volunteer organizations must be given the 13 opportunity to review the plan. The local emergency management 14 agency shall complete its review within 60 days and either 15 approve the plan or advise the facility of necessary 16 17 revisions. (c) The number and qualifications of all personnel who 18

- (c) The number and qualifications of all personnel who have responsibility for the care of residents. The rules must require adequate staff to provide for the safety of all residents.
- (2) A representative of the agency shall conduct unannounced inspections of facilities licensed under this part to determine compliance with the provisions of this part.
- (a) The number of these inspections conducted annually must be equal to the number of licensed facilities.
- (b) Facilities must be selected for inspection through a random process.
- (c) A report of the findings of these inspections must be forwarded to the division.

- (d) Findings of substantial noncompliance with this part and with rules adopted under this part necessitate that an additional review be conducted under s. 413.605.
- (e) Reports resulting from reviews or inspections constitute a basis for administrative action against the licensee by the agency. However, this section is not a limitation upon the power of the agency to take action to enforce this part and the rules adopted under this part.
- (3) The department shall impose a fee upon any person who requests a copy of this part or rules adopted under this part. The fee must not exceed the actual cost of duplication and postage.

Section 26. Section 400.929, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

400.929 Maintenance of records; reports.--

- (1) Each facility shall maintain, as public information available for public inspection under such conditions as the agency prescribes, records containing copies of all inspection reports pertaining to the facility that have been issued by the agency to the facility. Copies of inspection reports must be retained in the records for 5 years from the date the reports are filed or issued.
- inspection report of the agency, including any report resulting from an additional review performed under s. 413.605 for that facility, in a prominent location within the facility so that the report is accessible to all residents and to the public. Upon request, the facility shall also provide a copy of the report to any resident of the facility or to an applicant for admission to the facility.

Section 27. Subsection (4) of section 413.605, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

413.605 Advisory council on brain and spinal cord injuries.--

- (4) The council shall:
- (a) Provide advice and expertise to the division in the preparation, implementation, and periodic review of the brain and spinal cord injury program as referenced in s. 413.49.
- (b) Annually appoint a five-member committee composed of one person who has a brain injury or has a family member with a brain injury, one person who has a spinal cord injury or has a family member with a spinal cord injury, and three members who shall be chosen from among these representative groups: physicians, other allied health professionals, administrators of brain and spinal cord injury programs, and representatives from support groups with expertise in areas related to the rehabilitation of persons who have brain or spinal cord injuries, except that one and only one member of the committee shall be an administrator of a transitional living facility as defined in s. 400.906. Membership on the council is not a prerequisite for membership on this committee.
- 1. The committee shall perform onsite visits to those transitional living facilities identified by the Agency for Health Care Administration as being in possible violation of the statutes and rules regulating such facilities. The committee members have the same rights of entry and inspection granted under s. 400.926 to designated representatives of the agency.

- 2. Factual findings of the committee resulting from an onsite investigation of a facility pursuant to subparagraph 1. shall be adopted by the agency in developing its administrative response regarding enforcement of statutes and rules regulating the operation of the facility.
- 3. Onsite investigations by the committee shall be funded by the Health Care Trust Fund.
- 4. Travel expenses for committee members shall be reimbursed in accordance with s. 112.061. Members of the committee shall recuse themselves from participating in any investigation that would create a conflict of interest under state law, and the council shall replace the member, either temporarily or permanently.

Section 28. Section 413.273, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 413.273 Per diem, travel expenses, personal care attendants, and accommodations interpreters for council members; conflicts of interest; removal.--
- (1) Members of any council established under this part are entitled to per diem and travel expenses for <u>all</u> <u>activities</u> required <u>by the attendance at council meetings</u> in accordance with <u>the provisions of</u> s. 112.061. Reasonable expenses for <u>accommodations such as personal care attendants</u> and interpreters needed by members <u>because of their disabilities</u> during <u>all activities required by the attendance at council must meetings shall</u> be reimbursed, or the <u>accommodations must be provided by the division</u>. A No member <u>may not shall</u> receive any compensation for <u>the performance of duties specified in</u>, or arising out of, her or his duties as a council member under this part except as otherwise specified in this part.

4 5

- (2) A No member of a any council established under this part may not shall cast a vote on any matter that would provide direct financial benefit to the member or create a conflict of interest under state law.
- (3) Members of any council established under this part may be removed from office by the appointing authority for malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, or permanent inability to perform official duties or for pleading nolo contendere to, or being found guilty of, a crime.

 Malfeasance <u>includes</u> shall include, but is not limited to, violation of any specific prohibitions within this part.

Section 29. Subsection (1) of section 413.395, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (13) is added to that section, to read:

413.395 Florida Independent Living Council.--

(1) There is created the Florida Independent Living Council to assist the division and the Division of Blind Services of the Department of Labor and Employment Security, as well as other state agencies and local planning and administrative entities assisted under Title VII of the act, in the expansion and development of statewide independent living policies, programs, and concepts and to recommend improvements for such programs and services. To ensure consistency with the provisions of the act, as amended, The Florida Independent Living council shall function independently of the division and is shall be assigned to the division for administrative purposes only. The council may elect to be incorporated as a Florida not-for-profit corporation and, upon such election, shall be incorporated by the division for the purposes stated in this section. The

4 5

council's appointed members constitute the board of directors for the corporation.

expenses covered by s. 413.273(1), and consistent with the procedures therein, the council may reimburse members for child care expenses incurred as a result of activities required by the council. The council may pay reasonable compensation to a member of the council if the member is not employed or must forfeit wages from other employment for each day the member is engaged in performing the duties of the council.

Section 30. Subsection (11) of section 413.405, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

413.405 Rehabilitation Advisory Council.--There is created the Rehabilitation Advisory Council to assist the division in the planning and development of statewide rehabilitation programs and services, to recommend improvements to such programs and services, and to perform the functions listed in this section.

expenses covered by s. 413.273(1), and consistent with the procedures therein, the council may shall reimburse members of the council for reasonable and necessary expenses of attending council meetings and performing council duties, including child care expenses incurred as a result of activities required by the council and personal assistance services, as provided in and subject to the requirements of s. 112.061. The council may pay reasonable compensation to a member of the council if the such member is not employed or must forfeit wages from other employment for each day the member is engaged in performing the duties of the council.

```
1
                       Section 31.
                                                  Section 400.805, Florida Statutes, is
  2
        repealed.
  3
                       Section 32. This act shall take effect October 1,
  4
        1998.
  5
  6
                              7
                                                     LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
            Provides for licensure and regulation of transitional living facilities for brain-injured and spinal-cord-injured persons. Provides for services to and rights of persons residing in such facilities. Specifies respective powers and duties of the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Division of Vocational
  8
  9
10
            Rehabilitation of the Department of Labor and Employment Security with respect to such facilities and residents. Also provides for reimbursement of certain expenses for members of division advisory councils. (See bill for
11
12
13
            details.)
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
```