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By the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and Senator Lee

597-02156-18 2018438c1 A bill to be entitled

An act relating to continuing care contracts; amending s. 651.011, F.S.; defining and redefining terms; amending s. 651.012, F.S.; conforming a crossreference; deleting an obsolete date; amending s. 651.013, F.S.; revising applicability of specified provisions of the Florida Insurance Code to the Office of Insurance Regulation's authority to regulate providers of continuing care and continuing care athome; amending s. 651.019, F.S.; revising notice and filing requirements for providers and facilities with respect to new and additional financing and refinancing; amending s. 651.021, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; creating s. 651.0215, F.S.; specifying conditions that qualify an applicant for a certificate of authority without first obtaining a provisional certificate of authority; specifying requirements for the consolidated application; requiring an applicant to obtain separate certificates of authority for multiple facilities; specifying procedures and requirements for the office's review of such applications and issuance or denial of certificates of authority; providing requirements for reservation contracts, entrance fees, and reservation deposits; authorizing a provider to secure release of moneys held in escrow under specified circumstances; providing construction relating to the release of escrow funds; amending s. 651.022, F.S.; revising the office's authority to make

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certain inquiries in the review of applications for provisional certificates of authority; specifying requirements for application amendments if material changes occur; requiring applicants to submit a specified feasibility study; revising procedures and requirements for the office's review of such applications; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; making a technical change; conforming cross-references; amending s. 651.023, F.S.; revising requirements for an application for a certificate of authority; specifying requirements for application amendments if material changes occur; revising procedures and requirements for the office's review of such applications; revising minimum unit reservation and minimum deposit requirements; revising conditions under which a provider is entitled to secure release of certain moneys held in escrow; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; conforming cross-references; amending s. 651.024, F.S.; providing and revising applicability of certain provisions to a person seeking to assume the role of general partner of a provider or seeking specified ownership, possession, or control of a provider's assets; providing applicability of certain provisions to a person seeking to acquire and become the provider for a facility; providing procedures for filing a disclaimer of control; defining terms; providing standing to the office to petition a circuit court in certain proceedings; creating s. 651.0245, F.S.;

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prohibiting a person, without the office's prior written approval, from acquiring a facility operating under a subsisting certificate of authority and engaging in the business of providing continuing care; providing requirements for an applicant seeking simultaneous acquisition of a facility and issuance of a certificate of authority; requiring the Financial Services Commission to adopt by rule certain application requirements; requiring the office to review applications and issue approvals or disapprovals of filings in accordance with specified provisions; defining terms; providing standing to the office to petition a specified circuit court under certain circumstances; providing procedures for filing a disclaimer of control; providing construction; authorizing the commission to adopt, amend, and repeal rules; creating s. 651.0246, F.S.; requiring a provider to obtain written approval from the office before commencing construction or marketing for specified expansions of a certificated facility; providing that a provider is automatically granted approval for certain expansions under specified circumstances; defining the term "existing units"; providing applicability; specifying requirements for applying for such approval; requiring the office to consider certain factors in reviewing such applications; providing procedures and requirements for the office's review of applications and approval or denial of expansions; specifying requirements for

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escrowed moneys and for the release of the moneys; defining the term "initial entrance fee"; providing construction; amending s. 651.026, F.S.; revising requirements for annual reports that providers file with the office; revising guidelines for commission rulemaking; requiring the office to publish, within specified timeframes, a specified annual report; amending s. 651.0261, F.S.; revising requirements for quarterly statements filed by providers and facilities with the office; authorizing the office to waive certain filing requirements under certain circumstances; authorizing the office to require, under certain circumstances, providers or facilities to file monthly unaudited financial statements and certain other information; authorizing the commission to adopt certain rules; amending s. 651.028, F.S.; authorizing the office, under certain circumstances, to waive any requirement of ch. 651, F.S., for providers or obligated groups having certain accreditations or credit ratings; amending s. 651.033, F.S.; revising requirements for escrow accounts and escrow agreements; revising requirements for, and restrictions on, agents of escrow accounts; revising permissible investments for funds in an escrow account; revising requirements for the withdrawal of escrowed funds under certain circumstances; creating s. 651.034, F.S.; specifying requirements and procedures for the office if a regulatory action level event occurs; authorizing the office to use members of

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the Continuing Care Advisory Council or retain consultants for specified purposes; requiring affected providers to bear fees, costs, and expenses for such consultants; requiring the office to take certain actions if an impairment occurs; authorizing the office to forego taking action for a certain timeframe under certain circumstances; providing immunity from liability to the commission, the Department of Financial Services, the office, and their employees or agents for certain actions; requiring the office to transmit any notice that may result in regulatory action by certain methods; authorizing the office to exempt a provider from specified requirements under certain circumstances and for a specified timeframe; authorizing the commission to adopt rules; providing construction; amending s. 651.035, F.S.; revising provider minimum liquid reserve requirements under specified circumstances; deleting an obsolete date; authorizing providers, under certain circumstances, to withdraw funds held in escrow without the office's approval; providing procedures and requirements to request approval for certain withdrawals; providing procedures and requirements for the office's review of such requests; authorizing the office, under certain circumstances, to order the immediate transfer of funds in the minimum liquid reserve to the custody of the department; providing that certain debt service reserves of a provider are not subject to such transfer provision; requiring facilities to file

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annual calculations of their minimum liquid reserves with the office and maintain such reserves beginning at specified periods; requiring providers to fund reserve shortfalls within a specified timeframe; providing construction; creating s. 651.043, F.S.; defining the term "management"; providing requirements for a contract for management made after a certain date; specifying procedures and requirements for providers filing notices of change in management with the office; specifying procedures, requirements, and factors for the office's review of such changes and approval or disapproval of the new management; requiring management disapproved by the office to be removed within a specified timeframe; authorizing the office to take certain disciplinary actions under certain circumstances; requiring providers to immediately remove management under certain circumstances; amending s. 651.051, F.S.; revising requirements for the maintenance of a provider's records and assets; amending s. 651.057, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending s. 651.071, F.S.; revising construction as to the priority of continuing care and continuing care at-home contracts in the event of receivership or liquidation proceedings against a provider; amending s. 651.091, F.S.; revising requirements for continuing care facilities and providers relating to the availability, distribution, and posting of reports and records; amending s. 651.105, F.S.; providing applicability of

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a provision of the Insurance Code relating to examinations and investigations to the office's authority in examining certain applicants and providers; requiring providers to respond to written correspondence from the office and provide certain information; declaring that the office has standing to petition a circuit court for certain injunctive relief; specifying venue; deleting a requirement for the office to determine if certain disclosures have been made; providing that a provider's or facility's parent, subsidiary, or affiliate is not subject to routine examination by the office except under certain circumstances; authorizing the office to examine certain parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates to ascertain the financial condition of a provider under certain circumstances; prohibiting the office, when conducting an examination or inspection, from using certain actuary recommendations for a certain purpose or requesting certain documents under certain circumstances; amending s. 651.106, F.S.; authorizing the office to deny an application for a provisional certificate of authority or a certificate of authority on certain grounds; revising and adding grounds for application denial or disciplinary action by the office; creating s. 651.1065, F.S.; prohibiting certain persons of a continuing care retirement community, except with the office's written permission, from actively soliciting, approving the solicitation or acceptance of, or accepting new

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continuing care contracts if they knew or should have known that the retirement community was impaired or insolvent; providing an exception; requiring the office to approve or disapprove the continued marketing of new contracts within a specified timeframe; providing a criminal penalty; amending s. 651.111, F.S.; revising procedures and requirements for the office's review of complaints requesting inspections of records and related financial affairs of a provider; amending s. 651.114, F.S.; providing that certain duties relating to a certain compliance or solvency plan must be performed by the office, or the Continuing Care Advisory Council at the request of the office, rather than solely by the council; providing construction relating to the office's authority to take certain measures; authorizing the office to seek a recommended plan from the advisory council; replacing the office with the department as the entity taking certain actions under ch. 631, F.S.; providing construction; revising circumstances under which the department and office are vested with certain powers and duties in regard to delinquency proceedings; specifying requirements for providers to notify residents and prospective residents of delinquency proceedings; specifying procedures relating to orders to show cause and hearings pursuant to ch. 631, F.S.; revising facilities with respect to which the office may not exercise certain remedial rights; creating s. 651.1141, F.S.; authorizing the

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office to issue an immediate final order for a provider to cease and desist from specified violations; amending s. 651.121, F.S.; revising the composition of the Continuing Care Advisory Council; amending s. 651.125, F.S.; providing a criminal penalty for certain actions performed without a valid provisional certificate of authority; making a technical change; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Section 651.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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651.011 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

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actuary in accordance with Actuarial Standards of Practice No. 3 for Continuing Care Retirement Communities, Revised Edition, effective May 1, 2011, or any future amendments or replacements to this standard which may be adopted by the Actuarial Standards

(1) "Actuarial opinion" means an opinion issued by an

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individual facility, or consolidated for multiple facilities, for either a certified provider, as of a current valuation date or the most recent fiscal year, or for an applicant, as of a projected future valuation date, which includes an actuary's opinion as to whether such provider or applicant is in

(2) "Actuarial study" means an analysis prepared for an

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Standards of Practice No. 3 for Continuing Care Retirement
Communities, Revised Edition, effective May 1, 2011, or any

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future amendments or replacements to this standard which may be adopted by the Actuarial Standards Board.

- (3) "Actuary" means an individual who is qualified to sign an actuarial opinion in accordance with the American Academy of Actuaries' qualification standards and who is a member in good standing of the American Academy of Actuaries.
- (4) (1) "Advertising" means the dissemination of written, visual, or electronic information by a provider, or any person affiliated with or controlled by a provider, to potential residents or their representatives for the purpose of inducing such persons to subscribe to or enter into a contract for continuing care or continuing care at-home.
- (5)(2) "Continuing care" or "care" means, pursuant to a contract, furnishing shelter and nursing care or personal services to a resident who resides in a facility, whether such nursing care or personal services are provided in the facility or in another setting designated in the contract for continuing care, by an individual not related by consanguinity or affinity to the resident, upon payment of an entrance fee. The terms may also be referred to as a "life plan."
- $\underline{(6)}$ "Continuing Care Advisory Council" or "advisory council" means the council established in s. 651.121.
- (7) "Continuing care at-home" means, pursuant to a contract other than a contract described in subsection (5) (2), furnishing to a resident who resides outside the facility the right to future access to shelter and nursing care or personal services, whether such services are provided in the facility or in another setting designated in the contract, by an individual not related by consanguinity or affinity to the resident, upon

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payment of an entrance fee. The term may also be referred to as a "life plan at-home."

- (8) "Corrective order" means an order issued by the office which specifies corrective actions the office has determined are required.
- (9) "Days cash on hand" means, for a facility or obligated group, the quotient obtained by dividing the value of paragraph (a) by the value of paragraph (b).
- (a) The sum of unrestricted cash, unrestricted short-term and long-term investments, provider restricted funds, and the minimum liquid reserve as of the reporting period.
- (b) Operating expenses less depreciation, amortization, and other noncash expenses and nonoperating losses, divided by 365.

 Operating expenses, depreciation, amortization, and other noncash expenses and nonoperating losses are each the sum of their respective values over the 12-month period immediately preceding the reporting date.

With prior written approval of the office, a demand note or other parental guarantee may be considered a short-term or long-term investment for the purposes of paragraph (a). However, the total of all demand notes issued by the parent may not, at any time, be more than the sum of unrestricted cash and unrestricted short-term and long-term investments held by the parent.

- (10) "Debt service coverage ratio" means, for a facility or obligated group, the quotient obtained by dividing the value of paragraph (a) by the value of paragraph (b).
- (a) The sum of total expenses less interest expense on the facility, depreciation, amortization, and other noncash expenses

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and nonoperating losses, subtracted from the sum of total revenues and gross entrance fees received less earned entrance fees and refunds paid. Expenses, interest expense on the facility, depreciation, amortization, other noncash expenses and nonoperating losses, revenues, noncash revenues, nonoperating gains, gross entrance fees, earned entrance fees, and refunds are each the sum of their respective values over the 12-month period immediately preceding the reporting date.

(b) Total annual principal and interest expense due on the facility or obligated group over the 12-month period immediately preceding the reporting date. For purposes of this paragraph, principal excludes any balloon principal payment amounts, and interest expense due is the sum of the interest over the 12-month period immediately preceding the reporting date which is reflected in the provider's audit.

(11) (5) "Entrance fee" means an initial or deferred payment of a sum of money or property made as full or partial payment for continuing care or continuing care at-home. An accommodation fee, admission fee, member fee, or other fee of similar form and application are considered to be an entrance fee.

(12) (6) "Facility" means a place where continuing care is furnished and may include one or more physical plants on a primary or contiguous site or an immediately accessible site. As used in this subsection, the term "immediately accessible site" means a parcel of real property separated by a reasonable distance from the facility as measured along public thoroughfares, and the term "primary or contiguous site" means the real property contemplated in the feasibility study required by this chapter.

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(7) "Generally accepted accounting principles" means those accounting principles and practices adopted by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, including Statement of Position 90-8 with respect to any full year to which the statement applies.

- (13) "Impaired" means that any of the following have occurred:
- (a) A provider has failed to maintain its minimum liquid reserve as required in s. 651.035, unless the provider has received prior written approval from the office for a withdrawal pursuant to s. 651.035(6) and is compliant with the approved payment schedule; or
 - (b) Beginning July 1, 2019:
- 1. For a provider with mortgage financing from a third-party lender or public bond issue, the provider's debt service coverage ratio is less than 1.00:1 and the provider's days cash on hand is less than 90; or
- 2. For a provider without mortgage financing from a third-party lender or public bond issue, the provider's days cash on hand is less than 90.
- $\underline{(14)}$ "Insolvency" means the condition in which \underline{a} the provider is unable to pay its obligations as they come due in the normal course of business.
- $\underline{\text{(15)}}$ "Licensed" means that \underline{a} the provider has obtained a certificate of authority from the office department.
- (16) "Manager" or "management company" means a person who administers the day-to-day business operations of a facility for a provider, subject to the policies, directives, and oversight

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of the provider.

(17) (10) "Nursing care" means those services or acts rendered to a resident by an individual licensed or certified pursuant to chapter 464.

- (18) "Obligated group" means one or more entities that jointly agree to be bound by a financing structure containing security provisions and covenants applicable to the group. For purposes of this subsection, debt issued under such a financing structure must be a joint and several obligation of each member of the group.
- independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing units in a facility divided by the total number of units in that facility, excluding units that are unavailable to market or reserve, as of the most recent annual report.
- (20) (11) "Personal services" has the same meaning as in s. 429.02.
- (21) (12) "Provider" means the owner or operator, whether a natural person, partnership or other unincorporated association, however organized, trust, or corporation, of an institution, building, residence, or other place, whether operated for profit or not, which owner or operator provides continuing care or continuing care at-home for a fixed or variable fee, or for any other remuneration of any type, whether fixed or variable, for the period of care, payable in a lump sum or lump sum and monthly maintenance charges or in installments. The term does not apply to an entity that has existed and continuously operated a facility located on at least 63 acres in this state providing residential lodging to members and their spouses for

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at least 66 years on or before July 1, 1989, and has the residential capacity of 500 persons, is directly or indirectly owned or operated by a nationally recognized fraternal organization, is not open to the public, and accepts only its members and their spouses as residents.

- (22) (13) "Records" means all documents, correspondence, and the permanent financial, directory, and personnel information and data maintained by a provider pursuant to this chapter, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission.
- (23) "Regulatory action level event" means that any two of the following have occurred:
- (a) The provider's debt service coverage ratio is less than the minimum ratio specified in the provider's bond covenants or lending agreement for long-term financing, or, if the provider does not have a debt service coverage ratio required by its lending institution, the provider's debt service coverage ratio is less than 1.20:1 as of the most recent annual report filed with the office. If the provider is a member of an obligated group having cross-collateralized debt and the obligated group has obtained an investment grade credit rating from a nationally recognized credit rating agency, as applicable, from Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, or Fitch Ratings, the obligated group's debt service coverage ratio will be used as the provider's debt service coverage ratio.
- (b) The provider's days cash on hand is less than the minimum number of days cash on hand specified in the provider's bond covenants or lending agreement for long-term financing. If the provider does not have a days cash on hand required by its

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lending institution, the days cash on hand may not be less than 100 as of the most recent annual report filed with the office.

If the provider is a member of an obligated group having crosscollateralized debt and the obligated group has obtained an investment grade credit rating from a nationally recognized credit rating agency, as applicable, from Moody's Investors

Service, Standard & Poor's, or Fitch Ratings, the days cash on hand of the obligated group will be used as the provider's days cash on hand.

- (c) The occupancy at the provider's facility is less than 80 percent, averaged over the 12-month period immediately preceding the reporting date.
- (24) (14) "Resident" means a purchaser of, a nominee of, or a subscriber to a continuing care or continuing care at-home contract. Such contract does not give the resident a part ownership of the facility in which the resident is to reside, unless expressly provided in the contract.
- (25) (15) "Shelter" means an independent living unit, room, apartment, cottage, villa, personal care unit, nursing bed, or other living area within a facility set aside for the exclusive use of one or more identified residents.
- Section 2. Section 651.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 651.012 Exempted facility; written disclosure of exemption.—Any facility exempted under ss. 632.637(1)(e) and 651.011(21) 651.011(12) must provide written disclosure of such exemption to each person admitted to the facility after October 1, 1996. This disclosure must be written using language likely to be understood by the person and must briefly explain the

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465 exemption.

Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 651.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

651.013 Chapter exclusive; applicability of other laws.-

- (2) In addition to other applicable provisions cited in this chapter, the office has the authority granted under ss. 624.302 and 624.303, 624.307-624.312, 624.318 624.308-624.312, 624.319(1)-(3), 624.320-624.321, 624.324, and 624.34, and 624.422 of the Florida Insurance Code to regulate providers of continuing care and continuing care at-home.
- Section 4. Section 651.019, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 651.019 New financing, additional financing, or refinancing.—
- (1) (a) A provider shall provide notice to the residents' council of any new financing or refinancing at least 30 days before the closing date of the financing or refinancing transaction. The notice must include a general outline of the amount and terms of the financing or refinancing and the intended use of proceeds.
- (b) If the facility does not have a residents' council, the facility must make available, in the same manner as other community notices, the information required by paragraph (a)

 After issuance of a certificate of authority, the provider shall submit to the office a general outline, including intended use of proceeds, with respect to any new financing, additional financing, or refinancing at least 30 days before the closing date of such financing transaction.
 - (2) Within 30 days after the closing date of such financing

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or refinancing transaction, The provider shall furnish any information the office may reasonably request in connection with any new financing, additional financing, or refinancing, including, but not limited to, the financing agreements and any related documents, escrow or trust agreements, and statistical or financial data. the provider shall also submit to the office copies of executed financing documents and escrow or trust agreements prepared in support of such financing or refinancing transaction, and a copy of all documents required to be submitted to the residents' council under paragraph (1) (a) within 30 days after the closing date.

Section 5. Section 651.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

651.021 Certificate of authority required.-

(1) A No person may not engage in the business of providing continuing care, issuing contracts for continuing care or continuing care at-home, or constructing a facility for the purpose of providing continuing care in this state without a certificate of authority obtained from the office as provided in this chapter. This section subsection does not prohibit the preparation of a construction site or construction of a model residence unit for marketing purposes, or both. The office may allow the purchase of an existing building for the purpose of providing continuing care if the office determines that the purchase is not being made to circumvent the prohibitions in this section.

(2) Written approval must be obtained from the office before commencing construction or marketing for an expansion of a certificated facility equivalent to the addition of at least

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20 percent of existing units or 20 percent or more in the number of continuing care at-home contracts. This provision does not apply to construction for which a certificate of need from the Agency for Health Care Administration is required.

- (a) For providers that offer both continuing care and continuing care at-home, the 20 percent is based on the total of both existing units and existing contracts for continuing care at-home. For purposes of this subsection, an expansion includes increases in the number of constructed units or continuing care at-home contracts or a combination of both.
- (b) The application for such approval shall be on forms adopted by the commission and provided by the office. The application must include the feasibility study required by s. 651.022(3) or s. 651.023(1)(b) and such other information as required by s. 651.023. If the expansion is only for continuing care at-home contracts, an actuarial study prepared by an independent actuary in accordance with standards adopted by the American Academy of Actuaries which presents the financial impact of the expansion may be substituted for the feasibility study.
- (c) In determining whether an expansion should be approved, the office shall use the criteria provided in ss. 651.022(6) and 651.023(4).
- Section 6. Section 651.0215, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
- 651.0215 Consolidated application for provisional certificate of authority and certificate of authority; required restrictions on use of entrance fees.—
 - (1) For an applicant to qualify for a certificate of

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authority without first obtaining a provisional certificate of authority, the following conditions must be met:

- (a) All reservation deposits and entrance fees must be placed in escrow in accordance with s. 651.033. The applicant may not use or pledge any part of an initial entrance fee for the construction or purchase of the facility or as security for long-term financing.
- (b) The reservation deposit may not exceed \$5,000 upon a resident's selection of a unit and must be refundable at any time before the resident takes occupancy of the selected unit.
- (c) The resident contract must state that collection of the balance of the entrance fee is to occur after the resident is notified that his or her selected unit is available for occupancy and on or before the occupancy date.
- (2) The consolidated application must be on a form prescribed by the commission and must contain all of the following information:
 - (a) All of the information required under s 651.022(2).
- (b) A feasibility study prepared by an independent consultant which contains all of the information required by s. 651.022(3) and financial forecasts or projections prepared in accordance with standards adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or in accordance with standards for feasibility studies for continuing care retirement communities adopted by the Actuarial Standards Board.
- 1. The feasibility study must take into account project costs, actual marketing results to date and marketing projections, resident fees and charges, competition, resident contract provisions, and other factors that affect the

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feasibility of operating the facility.

- 2. If the feasibility study is prepared by an independent certified public accountant, it must contain an examination report, or a compilation report acceptable to the office, containing a financial forecast or projections for the first 5 years of operations which take into account an actuary's mortality and morbidity assumptions as the study relates to turnover, rates, fees, and charges. If the study is prepared by an independent consulting actuary, it must contain mortality and morbidity assumptions as it relates to turnover, rates, fees, and charges and an actuary's signed opinion that the project as proposed is feasible and that the study has been prepared in accordance with Actuarial Standards of Practice No. 3 for Continuing Care Retirement Communities, Revised Edition, effective May 1, 2011.
- (c) Documents evidencing that commitments have been secured for construction financing and long-term financing or that a documented plan acceptable to the office has been adopted by the applicant for long-term financing.
- (d) Documents evidencing that all conditions of the lender have been satisfied to activate the commitment to disburse funds, other than the obtaining of the certificate of authority, the completion of construction, or the closing of the purchase of realty or buildings for the facility.
- (e) Documents evidencing that the aggregate amount of entrance fees received by or pledged to the applicant, plus anticipated proceeds from any long-term financing commitment and funds from all other sources in the actual possession of the applicant, equal at least 100 percent of the aggregate cost of

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constructing or purchasing, equipping, and furnishing the
facility plus 100 percent of the anticipated startup losses of
the facility.

- (f) A complete audited financial report of the applicant, prepared by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, as of the date the applicant commenced business operations or for the fiscal year that ended immediately preceding the date of application, whichever is later, and complete unaudited quarterly financial statements attested to by the applicant after the date of the last audit.
- (g) Documents evidencing that the applicant will be able to comply with s. 651.035.
- (h) Such other reasonable data, financial statements, and pertinent information as the commission or office may require with respect to the applicant or the facility to determine the financial status of the facility and the management capabilities of its managers and owners.
- (3) If an applicant has or proposes to have more than one facility offering continuing care or continuing care at-home, a separate certificate of authority must be obtained for each facility.
- (4) Within 45 days after receipt of the information required under subsection (2), the office shall examine the information and notify the applicant in writing, specifically requesting any additional information that the office is authorized to require. An application is deemed complete when the office receives all requested information and the applicant corrects any error or omission of which the applicant was timely

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motified or when the time for such notification has expired.

Within 15 days after receipt of all of the requested additional information, the office shall notify the applicant in writing that all of the requested information has been received and that the application is deemed to be complete as of the date of the notice. Failure to notify the applicant in writing within the 15-day period constitutes acknowledgment by the office that it has received all requested additional information, and the application is deemed complete for purposes of review on the date the applicant files all of the required additional information.

- (5) Within 45 days after an application is deemed complete as set forth in subsection (4) and upon completion of the remaining requirements of this section, the office shall complete its review and issue or deny a certificate of authority to the applicant. The period for review by the office may not be tolled if the office requests additional information and the applicant provides the requested information within 5 business days. If a certificate of authority is denied, the office must notify the applicant in writing, citing the specific failures to satisfy this chapter, and the applicant is entitled to an administrative hearing pursuant to chapter 120.
- (6) The office shall issue a certificate of authority upon determining that the applicant meets all requirements of law and has submitted all of the information required under this section, that all escrow requirements have been satisfied, and that the fees prescribed in s. 651.015(2) have been paid.
- (7) The issuance of a certificate of authority entitles the applicant to begin construction and collect reservation deposits

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and entrance fees from prospective residents. The reservation contract must state the cancellation policy and the terms of the continuing care contract to be entered into. All or any part of an entrance fee or reservation deposit collected must be placed in an escrow account or on deposit with the department pursuant to s. 651.033.

- (8) The provider is entitled to secure release of the moneys held in escrow within 7 days after the office receives an affidavit from the provider, along with appropriate documentation to verify, and notification is provided to the escrow agent by certified mail, that the following conditions have been satisfied:
 - (a) A certificate of occupancy has been issued.
- (b) Payment in full has been received for at least 70 percent of the total units of a phase or of the total of the combined phases constructed. If a provider offering continuing care at-home is applying for a release of escrowed entrance fees, the same minimum requirement must be met for the continuing care and continuing care at-home contracts independently of each other.
- (c) The provider has evidence of sufficient funds to meet the requirements of s. 651.035, which may include funds deposited in the initial entrance fee account.
- (d) Documents evidencing the intended application of the proceeds upon release and documents evidencing that the entrance fees, when released, will be applied as represented to the office.

Notwithstanding chapter 120, a person, other than the provider,

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the escrow agent, and the office, may not have a substantial interest in any decision by the office regarding the release of escrow funds in any proceeding under chapter 120 or this chapter.

- (9) The office may not approve any application that includes in the plan of financing any encumbrance of the operating reserves or renewal and replacement reserves required by this chapter.
- (10) The office may not issue a certificate of authority to a facility that does not have a component that is to be licensed pursuant to part II of chapter 400 or part I of chapter 429, or that does not offer personal services or nursing services through written contractual agreement. A written contractual agreement must be disclosed in the contract for continuing care or continuing care at-home and is subject to s. 651.1151.
- Section 7. Subsection (2) and present subsections (6) and (8) of section 651.022, Florida Statutes, are amended, present subsections (3) through (8) of that section are redesignated as subsections (4) through (9), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to that section, to read:
 - 651.022 Provisional certificate of authority; application.-
- (2) The application for a provisional certificate of authority $\underline{\text{must}}$ shall be on a form prescribed by the commission and $\underline{\text{must}}$ shall contain the following information:
- (a) If the applicant or provider is a corporation, a copy of the articles of incorporation and bylaws; if the applicant or provider is a partnership or other unincorporated association, a copy of the partnership agreement, articles of association, or other membership agreement; and, if the applicant or provider is

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a trust, a copy of the trust agreement or instrument.

- (b) The full names, residences, and business addresses of:
- 1. The proprietor, if the applicant or provider is an individual.
- 2. Every partner or member, if the applicant or provider is a partnership or other unincorporated association, however organized, having fewer than 50 partners or members, together with the business name and address of the partnership or other organization.
- 3. The principal partners or members, if the applicant or provider is a partnership or other unincorporated association, however organized, having 50 or more partners or members, together with the business name and business address of the partnership or other organization. If such unincorporated organization has officers and a board of directors, the full name and business address of each officer and director may be set forth in lieu of the full name and business address of its principal members.
- 4. The corporation and each officer and director thereof, if the applicant or provider is a corporation.
- 5. Every trustee and officer, if the applicant or provider is a trust.
- 6. The manager, whether an individual, corporation, partnership, or association.
- 7. Any stockholder holding at least a 10 percent interest in the operations of the facility in which the care is to be offered.
- 8. Any person whose name is required to be provided in the application under this paragraph and who owns any interest in or

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receives any remuneration from, directly or indirectly, any professional service firm, association, trust, partnership, or corporation providing goods, leases, or services to the facility for which the application is made, with a real or anticipated value of \$10,000 or more, and the name and address of the professional service firm, association, trust, partnership, or corporation in which such interest is held. The applicant shall describe such goods, leases, or services and the probable cost to the facility or provider and shall describe why such goods, leases, or services should not be purchased from an independent entity.

- 9. Any person, corporation, partnership, association, or trust owning land or property leased to the facility, along with a copy of the lease agreement.
- 10. Any affiliated parent or subsidiary corporation or partnership.
- (c)1. Evidence that the applicant is reputable and of responsible character. If the applicant is a firm, association, organization, partnership, business trust, corporation, or company, the form <u>must shall</u> require evidence that the members or shareholders are reputable and of responsible character, and the person in charge of providing care under a certificate of authority <u>are shall likewise be required to produce evidence of being</u> reputable and of responsible character.
- 2. Evidence satisfactory to the office of the ability of the applicant to comply with the provisions of this chapter and with rules adopted by the commission pursuant to this chapter.
- 3. A statement of whether a person identified in the application for a provisional certificate of authority or the

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administrator or manager of the facility, if such person has been designated, or any such person living in the same location:

- a. Has been convicted of a felony or has pleaded nolo contendere to a felony charge, or has been held liable or has been enjoined in a civil action by final judgment, if the felony or civil action involved fraud, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, or misappropriation of property.
- b. Is subject to a currently effective injunctive or restrictive order or federal or state administrative order relating to business activity or health care as a result of an action brought by a public agency or department, including, without limitation, an action affecting a license under chapter 400 or chapter 429.

The statement $\underline{\text{must}}$ $\underline{\text{shall}}$ set forth the court or agency, the date of conviction or judgment, and the penalty imposed or damages assessed, or the date, nature, and issuer of the order. Before determining whether a provisional certificate of authority is to be issued, the office may make an inquiry to determine the accuracy of the information submitted pursuant to subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3.

- (d) The contracts for continuing care and continuing care at-home to be entered into between the provider and residents which meet the minimum requirements of s. 651.055 or s. 651.057 and which include a statement describing the procedures required by law relating to the release of escrowed entrance fees. Such statement may be furnished through an addendum.
- (e) Any advertisement or other written material proposed to be used in the solicitation of residents.

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(f) Such other reasonable data, financial statements, and pertinent information as the commission or office may reasonably require with respect to the provider or the facility, including the most recent audited financial report statements of comparable facilities currently or previously owned, managed, or developed by the applicant or its principal, to assist in determining the financial viability of the project and the management capabilities of its managers and owners.

- (g) The forms of the residency contracts, reservation contracts, escrow agreements, and wait list contracts, if applicable, which are proposed to be used by the provider in the furnishing of care. The office shall approve contracts and escrow agreements that comply with ss. 651.023(1)(c), 651.033, 651.055, and 651.057. Thereafter, no other form of contract or agreement may be used by the provider until it has been submitted to the office and approved.
- If any material change occurs in the facts set forth in an application filed with the office pursuant to this subsection, an amendment setting forth such change must be filed with the office within 10 business days after the applicant becomes aware of such change, and a copy of the amendment must be sent by registered mail to the principal office of the facility and to the principal office of the controlling company.
- (3) In addition to the information required in subsection (2), an applicant for a provisional certificate of authority must submit a feasibility study with appropriate financial, marketing, and actuarial assumptions for the first 5 years of operations. The feasibility study must include at least the

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following information:

- (a) A description of the proposed facility, including the location, size, anticipated completion date, and the proposed construction program.
- (b) Identification and an evaluation of the primary and, if appropriate, the secondary market areas of the facility and the projected unit sales per month.
- (c) Projected revenues, including anticipated entrance fees; monthly service fees; nursing care revenues, if applicable; and all other sources of revenue.
- (d) Projected expenses, including staffing requirements and salaries; cost of property, plant, and equipment, including depreciation expense; interest expense; marketing expense; and other operating expenses.
 - (e) A projected balance sheet of the applicant.
- (f) Expectations of the financial condition of the project, including the projected cash flow, and an estimate of the funds anticipated to be necessary to cover startup losses.
- (g) The inflation factor, if any, assumed in the feasibility study for the proposed facility and how and where it is applied.
- (h) Project costs and the total amount of debt financing required, marketing projections, resident fees and charges, the competition, resident contract provisions, and other factors that affect the feasibility of the facility.
- (i) Appropriate population projections, including morbidity and mortality assumptions.
- (j) The name of the person who prepared the feasibility study and the experience of such person in preparing similar

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studies or otherwise consulting in the field of continuing care.

The preparer of the feasibility study may be the provider or a contracted third party.

- (k) Any other information that the applicant deems relevant and appropriate to enable the office to make a more informed determination.
- (7) Within 45 days after the date an application is deemed complete as set forth in paragraph (6)(b) $\frac{(5)(b)}{}$, the office shall complete its review and issue a provisional certificate of authority to the applicant based upon its review and a determination that the application meets all requirements of law, that the feasibility study was based on sufficient data and reasonable assumptions, and that the applicant will be able to provide continuing care or continuing care at-home as proposed and meet all financial and contractual obligations related to its operations, including the financial requirements of this chapter. The period for review by the office may not be tolled if the office requests additional information and the applicant provides the requested information within 5 business days. If the application is denied, the office shall notify the applicant in writing, citing the specific failures to meet the provisions of this chapter. Such denial entitles the applicant to a hearing pursuant to chapter 120.
- $\underline{(9)}$ The office \underline{may} shall not approve any application \underline{that} which includes in the plan of financing any encumbrance of the operating reserves \underline{or} renewal and replacement reserves required by this chapter.
- Section 8. Subsections (1) through (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), and subsections (6), (8), and (9) of section

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651.023, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

651.023 Certificate of authority; application.-

- (1) After issuance of a provisional certificate of authority, the office shall issue to the holder of such provisional certificate a certificate of authority if the holder of the provisional certificate provides the office with the following information:
- (a) Any material change in status with respect to the information required to be filed under s. 651.022(2) in the application for the provisional certificate.
- (b) A feasibility study prepared by an independent consultant which contains all of the information required by \underline{s} . $\underline{651.022(4)}$ \underline{s} . $\underline{651.022(3)}$ and financial forecasts or projections prepared in accordance with standards adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or in accordance with standards for feasibility studies or continuing care retirement communities adopted by the Actuarial Standards Board.
- 1. The study must also contain an independent evaluation and examination opinion, or a comparable opinion acceptable to the office, by the consultant who prepared the study, of the underlying assumptions used as a basis for the forecasts or projections in the study and that the assumptions are reasonable and proper and the project as proposed is feasible.
- 1.2. The study must take into account project costs, actual marketing results to date and marketing projections, resident fees and charges, competition, resident contract provisions, and any other factors which affect the feasibility of operating the facility.
 - 2.3. If the study is prepared by an independent certified

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public accountant, it must contain an examination opinion, or a compilation report acceptable to the office, containing a financial forecast or projections for the first 5 3 years of operations which take into account an actuary's mortality and morbidity assumptions as the study relates to turnover, rates, fees, and charges and financial projections having a compilation opinion for the next 3 years. If the study is prepared by an independent consulting actuary, it must contain mortality and morbidity assumptions as the study relates to turnover, rates, fees, and charges, data and an actuary's signed opinion that the project as proposed is feasible and that the study has been prepared in accordance with standards adopted by the American Academy of Actuaries.

- (c) Subject to subsection (4), a provider may submit an application for a certificate of authority and any required exhibits upon submission of documents evidencing proof that the project has a minimum of 30 percent of the units reserved for which the provider is charging an entrance fee. This does not apply to an application for a certificate of authority for the acquisition of a facility for which a certificate of authority was issued before October 1, 1983, to a provider who subsequently becomes a debtor in a case under the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. ss. 101 et seq., or to a provider for which the department has been appointed receiver pursuant to part II of chapter 631.
- (d) <u>Documents evidencing</u> <u>Proof</u> that commitments have been secured for both construction financing and long-term financing or a documented plan acceptable to the office has been adopted by the applicant for long-term financing.

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(e) <u>Documents evidencing Proof</u> that all conditions of the lender have been satisfied to activate the commitment to disburse funds other than the obtaining of the certificate of authority, the completion of construction, or the closing of the purchase of realty or buildings for the facility.

- (f) <u>Documents evidencing</u> <u>Proof</u> that the aggregate amount of entrance fees received by or pledged to the applicant, plus anticipated proceeds from any long-term financing commitment, plus funds from all other sources in the actual possession of the applicant, equal at least 100 percent of the aggregate cost of constructing or purchasing, equipping, and furnishing the facility plus 100 percent of the anticipated startup losses of the facility.
- (g) A complete audited financial report statements of the applicant, prepared by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, as of the date the applicant commenced business operations or for the fiscal year that ended immediately preceding the date of application, whichever is later, and complete unaudited quarterly financial statements attested to by the applicant after the date of the last audit.
- (h) <u>Documents evidencing Proof</u> that the applicant has complied with the escrow requirements of subsection (5) or subsection (7) and will be able to comply with s. 651.035.
- (i) Such other reasonable data, financial statements, and pertinent information as the commission or office may require with respect to the applicant or the facility, to determine the financial status of the facility and the management capabilities of its managers and owners.

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If any material change occurs in the facts set forth in an application filed with the office pursuant to this subsection, an amendment setting forth such change must be filed with the office within 10 business days, and a copy of the amendment must be sent by registered mail to the principal office of the facility and to the principal office of the controlling company.

(2) Within 30 days after receipt of the information required under subsection (1), the office shall examine such information and notify the provider in writing, specifically requesting any additional information the office is permitted by law to require. Within 15 days after receipt of all of the requested additional information, the office shall notify the provider in writing that all of the requested information has been received, and the application is deemed to be complete as of the date of the notice. Failure to notify the provider in writing within the 15-day period constitutes acknowledgment by the office that it has received all requested additional information, and the application is deemed complete for purposes of review on the date of filing all of the required additional information Within 15 days after receipt of all of the requested additional information, the office shall notify the provider in writing that all of the requested information has been received and the application is deemed to be complete as of the date of the notice. Failure to notify the applicant in writing within the 15-day period constitutes acknowledgment by the office that it has received all requested additional information, and the application shall be deemed complete for purposes of review on the date of filing all of the required additional information.

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(3) Within 45 days after an application is deemed complete as set forth in subsection (2), and upon completion of the remaining requirements of this section, the office shall complete its review and issue or deny a certificate of authority to the holder of a provisional certificate of authority. If a certificate of authority is denied, the office must notify the holder of the provisional certificate in writing, citing the specific failures to satisfy the provisions of this chapter. The period for review by the office may not be tolled if the office requests additional information and the applicant provides the requested information within 5 business days. If denied, the holder of the provisional certificate is entitled to an administrative hearing pursuant to chapter 120.

- (4) The office shall issue a certificate of authority upon determining that the applicant meets all requirements of law and has submitted all of the information required by this section, that all escrow requirements have been satisfied, and that the fees prescribed in s. 651.015(2) have been paid.
- (a) A Notwithstanding satisfaction of the 30-percent minimum reservation requirement of paragraph (1)(c), no certificate of authority may not shall be issued until documentation evidencing that the project has a minimum of 50 percent of the units reserved for which the provider is charging an entrance fee, and proof is provided to the office. If a provider offering continuing care at-home is applying for a certificate of authority or approval of an expansion pursuant to s. 651.021(2), the same minimum reservation requirements must be met for the continuing care and continuing care at-home contracts, independently of each other.

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(b) In order for a unit to be considered reserved under this section, the provider must collect a minimum deposit of the lesser of \$40,000 or 10 percent of the then-current entrance fee for that unit, and may assess a forfeiture penalty of 2 percent of the entrance fee due to termination of the reservation contract after 30 days for any reason other than the death or serious illness of the resident, the failure of the provider to meet its obligations under the reservation contract, or other circumstances beyond the control of the resident that equitably entitle the resident to a refund of the resident's deposit. The reservation contract must state the cancellation policy and the terms of the continuing care or continuing care at-home contract to be entered into.

- (5) Up to 25 percent of the moneys paid for all or any part of an initial entrance fee may be included or pledged for the construction or purchase of the facility or as security for long-term financing. The term "initial entrance fee" means the total entrance fee charged by the facility to the first occupant of a unit.
- (b) For an expansion as provided in $\underline{s.651.0246}$ $\underline{s.651.0246}$ $\underline{s.651.021(2)}$, a minimum of 75 percent of the moneys paid for all or any part of an initial entrance fee collected for continuing care and 50 percent of the moneys paid for all or any part of an initial fee collected for continuing care at-home shall be placed in an escrow account or on deposit with the department as prescribed in $\underline{s.651.033}$.
- (6) The provider is entitled to secure release of the moneys held in escrow within 7 days after receipt by the office of an affidavit from the provider, along with appropriate copies

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to verify, and notification to the escrow agent by certified mail, that the following conditions have been satisfied:

- (a) A certificate of occupancy has been issued.
- (b) Payment in full has been received for at least 70 percent of the total units of a phase or of the total of the combined phases constructed. If a provider offering continuing care at-home is applying for a release of escrowed entrance fees, the same minimum requirement must be met for the continuing care and continuing care at-home contracts, independently of each other.
- (c) The consultant who prepared the feasibility study required by this section or a substitute approved by the office certifies within 12 months before the date of filing for office approval that there has been no material adverse change in status with regard to the feasibility study. If a material adverse change exists at the time of submission, sufficient information acceptable to the office and the feasibility consultant must be submitted which remedies the adverse condition.
- (c) (d) Documents evidencing Proof that commitments have been secured or a documented plan adopted by the applicant has been approved by the office for long-term financing.
- (d) (e) Documents evidencing Proof that the provider has sufficient funds to meet the requirements of s. 651.035, which may include funds deposited in the initial entrance fee account.
- (e) (f) Documents evidencing Proof as to the intended application of the proceeds upon release and documentation proof that the entrance fees when released will be applied as represented to the office.

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(f) If any material change occurred in the facts set forth in the application filed with the office pursuant to subsection (1), the applicant timely filed the amendment setting forth such change with the office and sent copies of the amendment to the principal office of the facility and to the principal office of the controlling company as required under that subsection.

- Notwithstanding chapter 120, no person, other than the provider, the escrow agent, and the office, may have a substantial interest in any office decision regarding release of escrow funds in any proceedings under chapter 120 or this chapter regarding release of escrow funds.
- (8) The timeframes provided under s. 651.022(5) and (6) apply to applications submitted under s. 651.021(2). The office may not issue a certificate of authority to a facility that does not have a component that is to be licensed pursuant to part II of chapter 400 or to part I of chapter 429 or that does not offer personal services or nursing services through written contractual agreement. A written contractual agreement must be disclosed in the contract for continuing care or continuing care at-home and is subject to the provisions of s. 651.1151, relating to administrative, vendor, and management contracts.
 - (9) The office may not approve an application that includes in the plan of financing any encumbrance of the operating reserves or renewal and replacement reserves required by this chapter.
 - Section 9. Section 651.024, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 651.024 Acquisition.

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(1) A person who seeks to assume the role of general partner of a provider or otherwise assume ownership or possession of, or control over, 10 percent or more of a provider's assets, based on the balance sheet from the most recent financial audit filed with the office, is issued a certificate of authority to operate a continuing care facility or a provisional certificate of authority shall be subject to the provisions of s. 628.4615 and is not required to make filings pursuant to s. 651.022, s. 651.023, or s. 651.0245.

- (2) A person who seeks to acquire and become the provider for a facility is subject to s. 651.0245 and is not required to make filings pursuant to ss. 628.4615, 651.022, and 651.023.
- (3) A person may rebut a presumption of control by filing a disclaimer of control with the office on a form prescribed by the commission. The disclaimer must fully disclose all material relationships and bases for affiliation between the person and the provider or facility, as well as the basis for disclaiming the affiliation. In lieu of such form, a person or acquiring party may file with the office a copy of a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b) or (c), 17 C.F.R. s. 240.13d-1, under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. After a disclaimer has been filed, the provider or facility is relieved of any duty to register or report under this section which may arise out of the provider's or facility's relationship with the person, unless the office disallows the disclaimer.
 - (4) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Controlling company" means any corporation, trust, or association that directly or indirectly owns 25 percent or more

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1162 stock corporations, or 25 percent or more of the ownership

interest of one or more facilities that are not stock

corporations.

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- (b) "Natural person" means an individual.
- (c) "Person" includes a natural person, corporation, association, trust, general partnership, limited partnership, joint venture, firm, proprietorship, or any other entity that may hold a license or certificate as a facility.
- 1170 (5) In addition to the facility or the controlling company,
 1171 the office has standing to petition a circuit court as described
 1172 in s. 628.4615(9).
 - Section 10. Section 651.0245, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 651.0245 Application for the simultaneous acquisition of a facility and issuance of a certificate of authority.—
 - (1) Except with the prior written approval of the office, a person may not, individually or in conjunction with any affiliated person of such person, directly or indirectly acquire a facility operating under a subsisting certificate of authority and engage in the business of providing continuing care.
 - (2) An applicant seeking simultaneous acquisition of a facility and issuance of a certificate of authority must:
 - (a) Comply with the notice requirements of s. 628.4615(2)(a); and
 - (b) File an application in the form required by the office and cooperate with the office's review of the application.
- 1188 (3) The commission shall adopt by rule application
 1189 requirements equivalent to those described in ss. 628.4615(4)

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1190 and (5), 651.022(2)(a)-(g), and 651.023(1)(b). The office shall review the application and issue an approval or disapproval of the filing in accordance with ss. 628.4615(6)(a) and (c), (7)-1193 (10), and (14); 651.022(9); and 651.023(1)(b).

- (4) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Controlling company" means any corporation, trust, or association that directly or indirectly owns 25 percent or more of the voting securities of one or more facilities that are stock corporations, or 25 percent or more of the ownership interest of one or more facilities that are not stock corporations.
 - (b) "Natural person" means an individual.
- (c) "Person" includes a natural person, corporation, association, trust, general partnership, limited partnership, joint venture, firm, proprietorship, or any other entity that may hold a license or certificate as a facility.
- (5) In addition to the facility or the controlling company, the office has standing to petition a circuit court as described in s. 628.4615(9).
- (6) A person may rebut a presumption of control by filing a disclaimer of control with the office on a form prescribed by the commission. The disclaimer must fully disclose all material relationships and bases for affiliation between the person and the provider or facility, as well as the basis for disclaiming the affiliation. In lieu of such form, a person or acquiring party may file with the office a copy of a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b) or (c), 17 C.F.R. s. 240.13d-1, under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. After a disclaimer has been

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filed, the provider or facility is relieved of any duty to
register or report under this section which may arise out of the
provider's or facility's relationship with the person, unless
the office disallows the disclaimer.

(7) The commission may adopt, amend, or repeal rules as necessary to administer this section.

Section 11. Section 651.0246, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

651.0246 Expansions.—

(1) (a) A provider must obtain written approval from the office before commencing construction or marketing for an expansion of a certificated facility equivalent to the addition of at least 20 percent of existing units or 20 percent or more in the number of continuing care at-home contracts. If the provider has exceeded the current statewide median for days cash on hand, debt service coverage ratio, and total campus occupancy for two consecutive annual reporting periods, the provider is automatically granted approval to expand the total number of existing units by up to 35 percent upon submitting a letter to the office indicating the total number of planned units in the expansion, the proposed sources and uses of funds, and an attestation that the provider understands and pledges to comply with all minimum liquid reserve and escrow account requirements. As used in this section, the term "existing units" means the sum of the total number of independent living units and assisted living units identified in the most recent annual report filed with the office pursuant to s. 651.026. For purposes of this section, the statewide median for days cash on hand, debt service coverage ratio, and total campus occupancy is the median

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calculated in the most recent annual report submitted by the office to the Continuing Care Advisory Council pursuant to s. 651.121(8). This section does not apply to construction for which a certificate of need from the Agency for Health Care Administration is required.

- (b) The application for such approval must be on forms adopted by the commission and provided by the office. The application must include the feasibility study required by this section and such other information as reasonably requested by the office. If the expansion is only for continuing care at-home contracts, an actuarial study prepared by an independent actuary in accordance with standards adopted by the American Academy of Actuaries which presents the financial impact of the expansion may be substituted for the feasibility study.
- (c) In determining whether an expansion should be approved, the office shall consider:
 - 1. Whether the application meets all requirements of law;
- 2. Whether the feasibility study was based on sufficient data and reasonable assumptions; and
- 3. Whether the applicant will be able to provide continuing care or continuing care at-home as proposed and meet all financial obligations related to its operations, including the financial requirements of this chapter.
- If the application is denied, the office must notify the applicant in writing, citing the specific failures to meet the provisions of this chapter. A denial entitles the applicant to a hearing pursuant to chapter 120.
 - (2) A provider applying for expansion of a certificated

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facility must submit all of the following:

- (a) A feasibility study prepared by an independent certified public accountant. The feasibility study must include at least the following information:
- 1. A description of the facility and proposed expansion, including the location, size, anticipated completion date, and the proposed construction program.
- 2. An identification and evaluation of the primary and, if applicable, secondary market areas of the facility and the projected unit sales per month.
- 3. Projected revenues, including anticipated entrance fees; monthly service fees; nursing care rates, if applicable; and all other sources of revenue.
- 4. Projected expenses, including for staffing requirements and salaries; the cost of property, plant, and equipment, including depreciation expense; interest expense; marketing expense; and other operating expenses.
 - 5. A projected balance sheet of the applicant.
- 6. Expectations of the financial condition of the project, including the projected cash flow and an estimate of the funds anticipated to be necessary to cover startup losses.
- 7. The inflation factor, if any, assumed in the study for the proposed expansion and how and where it is applied.
- 8. Project costs, the total amount of debt financing required, marketing projections, resident fees and charges, the competition, resident contract provisions, and other factors that affect the feasibility of the facility.
- 9. Appropriate population projections, including morbidity and mortality assumptions.

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10. The name of the person who prepared the feasibility study and his or her experience in preparing similar studies or otherwise consulting in the field of continuing care.

- 11. Financial forecasts or projections prepared in accordance with standards adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or in accordance with standards for feasibility studies for continuing care retirement communities adopted by the Actuarial Standards Board.
- 12. An independent evaluation and examination opinion for the first 5 years of operations, or a comparable opinion acceptable to the office, by the consultant who prepared the study, of the underlying assumptions used as a basis for the forecasts or projections in the study and that the assumptions are reasonable and proper and the project as proposed is feasible.
- 13. Any other information that the provider deems relevant and appropriate to provide to enable the office to make a more informed determination.
- (b) Such other reasonable data, financial statements, and pertinent information as the commission or office may require with respect to the applicant or the facility to determine the financial status of the facility and the management capabilities of its managers and owners.
- (3) A minimum of 75 percent of the moneys paid for all or any part of an initial entrance fee or reservation deposit collected for continuing care and 50 percent of the moneys paid for all or any part of an initial fee collected for continuing care at-home must be placed in an escrow account or on deposit with the department as prescribed in s. 651.033. Up to 25

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percent of the moneys paid for all or any part of an initial
entrance fee or reservation deposit may be included or pledged
for the construction or purchase of the facility or as security
for long-term financing. As used in this section, the term
"initial entrance fee" means the total entrance fee charged by
the facility to the first occupant of a unit.

- Entrance fees and reservation deposits collected for expansions must be held pursuant to the escrow requirements of s. 651.023(5) and (6).
- (4) The provider is entitled to secure release of the moneys held in escrow within 7 days after receipt by the office of an affidavit from the provider, along with appropriate copies to verify, and notification to the escrow agent by certified mail that the following conditions have been satisfied:
 - (a) A certificate of occupancy has been issued.
- (b) Payment in full has been received for at least 50 percent of the total units of a phase or of the total of the combined phases constructed. If a provider offering continuing care at-home is applying for a release of escrowed entrance fees, the same minimum requirement must be met for the continuing care and continuing care at-home contracts independently of each other.
- (c) Documents evidencing that commitments have been secured or that a documented plan adopted by the applicant has been approved by the office for long-term financing.
- (d) Documents evidencing that the provider has sufficient funds to meet the requirements of s. 651.035, which may include funds deposited in the initial entrance fee account.

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(e) Documents evidencing the intended application of the proceeds upon release and documentation that the entrance fees, when released, will be applied as represented to the office.

Notwithstanding chapter 120, only the provider, the escrow agent, and the office have a substantial interest in any office.

agent, and the office have a substantial interest in any office decision regarding release of escrow funds in any proceedings under chapter 120 or this chapter.

(5)(a) Within 30 days after receipt of an application for expansion, the office shall examine the application and shall notify the applicant in writing, specifically setting forth and specifically requesting any additional information that the office is authorized to require. Within 15 days after the office receives all the requested additional information, the office shall notify the applicant in writing that the requested information has been received and that the application is deemed to be complete as of the date of the notice. If the office chooses not to notify the applicant within the 15-day period, then the application is deemed complete for purposes of review on the date the applicant files the additional requested information. If the application submitted is determined by the office to be substantially incomplete so as to require substantial additional information, including biographical information, the office may return the application to the applicant with a written notice that the application as received is substantially incomplete and therefore unacceptable for filing without further action required by the office. Any filing fee received must be refunded to the applicant.

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receiving all requested information and the applicant correcting any error or omission of which the applicant was timely notified or when the time for such notification has expired. The office shall notify the applicant in writing of the date on which the application was deemed complete.

(6) Within 45 days after the date on which an application is deemed complete as set forth in paragraph (5)(b), the office shall complete its review and, based upon its review, approve an expansion by the applicant and issue a determination that the application meets all requirements of law, that the feasibility study was based on sufficient data and reasonable assumptions, and that the applicant will be able to provide continuing care or continuing care at-home as proposed and meet all financial and contractual obligations related to its operations, including the financial requirements of this chapter. The period for review by the office may not be tolled if the office requests additional information and the applicant provides information acceptable to the office within 5 business days. If the application is denied, the office must notify the applicant in writing, citing the specific failures to meet the provisions of this chapter. The denial entitles the applicant to a hearing pursuant to chapter 120.

Section 12. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and subsection (3) of section 651.026, Florida Statutes, are amended, subsection (10) is added to that section, and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of that section is republished, to read:

651.026 Annual reports.-

(2) The annual report shall be in such form as the commission prescribes and shall contain at least the following:

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1422 (a) Any change in status with respect to the information 1423 required to be filed under s. 651.022(2).

- (c) The following financial information:
- 1. A detailed listing of the assets maintained in the liquid reserve as required under s. 651.035 and in accordance with part II of chapter 625;
- 2. A schedule giving additional information relating to property, plant, and equipment having an original cost of at least \$25,000, so as to show in reasonable detail with respect to each separate facility original costs, accumulated depreciation, net book value, appraised value or insurable value and date thereof, insurance coverage, encumbrances, and net equity of appraised or insured value over encumbrances. Any property not used in continuing care must be shown separately from property used in continuing care;
- 3. The level of participation in Medicare or Medicaid programs, or both;
- 4. A statement of all fees required of residents, including, but not limited to, a statement of the entrance fee charged, the monthly service charges, the proposed application of the proceeds of the entrance fee by the provider, and the plan by which the amount of the entrance fee is determined if the entrance fee is not the same in all cases; and
- 5. Any change or increase in fees if the provider changes the scope of, or the rates for, care or services, regardless of whether the change involves the basic rate or only those services available at additional costs to the resident.
- 6. If the provider has more than one certificated facility, or has operations that are not licensed under this chapter, it

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shall submit a balance sheet, statement of income and expenses, statement of equity or fund balances, and statement of cash flows for each facility licensed under this chapter as supplemental information to the audited financial report statements required under paragraph (b).

- 7. The management's calculation of the provider's debt service coverage ratio and days cash on hand for the current reporting period, and an opinion from an independent certified public accountant of the management's calculations.
- (3) The commission shall adopt by rule <u>additional</u> measures of assessing the financial viability of a provider. The rule may include the following factors:
 - (a) Debt service coverage ratios.
- (b) Current ratios.
 - (c) Adjusted current ratios.
 - (d) Cash flows.
 - (e) Occupancy rates.
 - (f) Other measures, ratios, or trends.
 - (g) Other factors as may be appropriate.
- (10) Within 90 days after the conclusion of each annual reporting period, the office shall publish an industry benchmarking report that contains all of the following:
 - (a) The median days cash on hand for all providers.
- (b) The median debt service coverage ratio for all providers.
- 1476 (c) The median occupancy rate for all providers by setting,

 1477 including independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing,

 1478 and the entire campus.
 - Section 13. Section 651.0261, Florida Statutes, is amended

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1480 to read:

651.0261 Quarterly and monthly statements.-

- (1) Within 45 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, each provider shall file a quarterly unaudited financial statement of the provider or of the facility in the form prescribed by rule of the commission and a detailed listing of the assets maintained in the liquid reserve as required under s. 651.035. This requirement may be waived by the office upon written request from a provider that is accredited or that has obtained an investment grade credit rating from a United States credit rating agency as authorized under s. 651.028. The last quarterly statement for a fiscal year is not required if a provider does not have pending a regulatory action level event or corrective action plan.
- (2) If the office finds, pursuant to rules of the commission, that such information is needed to properly monitor the financial condition of a provider or facility or is otherwise needed to protect the public interest, the office may require the provider to file:
- (a) Within 25 days after the end of each month, a monthly unaudited financial statement of the provider or of the facility in the form prescribed by the commission by rule and a detailed listing of the assets maintained in the liquid reserve as required under s. 651.035, within 45 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, a quarterly unaudited financial statement of the provider or of the facility in the form prescribed by the commission by rule. The commission may by rule require all or part of the statements or filings required under this section to be submitted by electronic means in a computer-readable form

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1509 compatible with the electronic data format specified by the 1510 commission.

- (b) Such other data, financial statements, and pertinent information as the commission or office may reasonably require with respect to the provider or the facility, or its directors, trustees, members, branches, subsidiaries, or affiliates, to determine the financial status of the provider or of the facility and the management capabilities of its managers and owners.
- (3) A filing under subsection (2) may be required if any of the following apply:
- (a) The facility has been operational for less than 2 years.
 - (b) The provider is:
 - 1. Subject to administrative supervision proceedings;
- 2. Subject to a corrective action plan resulting from a regulatory action level event for up to 2 years after the factors that caused the regulatory action level event have been corrected; or
 - 3. Subject to delinquency or receivership proceedings.
- (c) The provider or facility displays a declining financial position.
 - (d) A change of ownership of the provider or facility has occurred within the previous 2 years.
 - (e) The facility is deemed to be impaired.
- 1534 (4) The commission may by rule require all or part of the

 1535 statements or filings required under this section to be

 1536 submitted by electronic means in a computer-readable form

 1537 compatible with an electronic data format specified by the

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1538 commission.

Section 14. Section 651.028, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

651.028 Accredited or certain credit-rated facilities.—If a provider or obligated group is accredited without stipulations or conditions by a process found by the office to be acceptable and substantially equivalent to the provisions of this chapter or has obtained an investment grade credit rating from a nationally recognized credit rating agency, as applicable, from Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, or Fitch Ratings, the office may, pursuant to rule of the commission, waive any requirements of this chapter with respect to the provider if the office finds that such waivers are not inconsistent with the security protections intended by this chapter.

Section 15. Paragraphs (a), (c), and (d) of subsection (1) and subsections (2) and (3) of section 651.033, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

651.033 Escrow accounts.-

- (1) When funds are required to be deposited in an escrow account pursuant to s. 651.022, s. 651.023, s. 651.035, or s. 651.055:
- (a) The escrow account <u>must</u> <u>shall</u> be established in a Florida bank, Florida savings and loan association, or Florida trust company, or a national bank that is chartered and supervised by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency within the United States Department of the Treasury and that has either a branch or a license to operate in this state which is acceptable to the office, or such funds must be deposited on

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deposit with the department; and the funds deposited therein shall be kept and maintained in an account separate and apart from the provider's business accounts.

- (c) Any agreement establishing an escrow account required under the provisions of this chapter is shall be subject to approval by the office. The agreement must shall be in writing and shall contain, in addition to any other provisions required by law, a provision whereby the escrow agent agrees to abide by the duties imposed by paragraphs (b) and (e), (3)(a), (3)(b), and (5)(a) and subsection (6) under this section.
- (d) All funds deposited in an escrow account, if invested, must shall be invested in cash, cash equivalents, mutual funds, equities, or investment grade bonds as set forth in part II of chapter 625; however, such investment may not diminish the funds held in escrow below the amount required by this chapter. Funds deposited in an escrow account are not subject to charges by the escrow agent except escrow agent fees associated with administering the accounts, or subject to any liens, judgments, garnishments, creditor's claims, or other encumbrances against the provider or facility except as provided in s. 651.035(1).
- (2) Notwithstanding s. 651.035(7), In addition, the escrow agreement shall provide that the escrow agent or another person designated to act in the escrow agent's place and the provider, except as otherwise provided in s. 651.035, shall notify the office in writing at least 10 days before the withdrawal of any portion of any funds required to be escrowed under the provisions of s. 651.035. However, in the event of an emergency and upon petition by the provider, the office may waive the 10-day notification period and allow a withdrawal of up to 10

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percent of the required minimum liquid reserve. The office shall have 3 working days to deny the petition for the emergency 10-percent withdrawal. If the office fails to deny the petition within 3 working days, the petition is shall be deemed to have been granted by the office. For purposes the purpose of this section, "working day" means each day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday as defined by Florida law. Also, for purposes the purpose of this section, the day the petition is received by the office is shall not be counted as one of the 3 days.

- (3) In addition, When entrance fees are required to be deposited in an escrow account pursuant to s. 651.022, s. 651.023, or s. 651.055:
- (a) The provider shall deliver to the resident a written receipt. The receipt must show the payor's name and address, the date, the price of the care contract, and the amount of money paid. A copy of each receipt, together with the funds, <u>must shall</u> be deposited with the escrow agent or as provided in paragraph (c). The escrow agent <u>must shall</u> release such funds to the provider 7 days after the date of receipt of the funds by the escrow agent if the provider, operating under a certificate of authority issued by the office, has met the requirements of s. 651.023(6). However, if the resident rescinds the contract within the 7-day period, the escrow agent <u>must shall</u> release the escrowed fees to the resident.
- (b) At the request of an individual resident of a facility, the escrow agent shall issue a statement indicating the status of the resident's portion of the escrow account.
 - (c) At the request of an individual resident of a facility,

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the provider may hold the check for the 7-day period and <u>may</u> shall not deposit it during this time period. If the resident rescinds the contract within the 7-day period, the check <u>must shall</u> be immediately returned to the resident. Upon the expiration of the 7 days, the provider shall deposit the check.

- (d) A provider may assess a nonrefundable fee, which is separate from the entrance fee, for processing a prospective resident's application for continuing care or continuing care at-home.
- (6) Except as described in paragraph (3) (a), the escrow agent may not release or otherwise allow the transfer of funds without the written approval of the office, unless the withdrawal is from funds in excess of the amounts required by ss. 651.022, 651.023, 651.035, and 651.055.

Section 16. Section 651.034, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 651.034 Financial and operating requirements for providers.—
- (1) (a) If a regulatory action level event occurs, the office must:
- 1. Require the provider to prepare and submit a corrective action plan or, if applicable, a revised corrective action plan;
- 2. Perform an examination pursuant to s. 651.105 or an analysis, as the office considers necessary, of the assets, liabilities, and operations of the provider, including a review of the corrective action plan or the revised corrective action plan; and
- 3. After the examination or analysis, issue a corrective order specifying any corrective actions that the office

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determines are required.

(b) In determining corrective actions, the office shall consider any factor relevant to the provider based upon the office's examination or analysis of the assets, liabilities, and operations of the provider. The provider must submit the corrective action plan or the revised corrective action plan within 30 days after the occurrence of the regulatory action level event. The office shall review and approve or disapprove the corrective action plan within 15 business days.

- (c) The office may use members of the Continuing Care

 Advisory Council, individually or as a group, or may retain

 actuaries, investment experts, and other consultants to review a

 provider's corrective action plan or revised corrective action

 plan, examine or analyze the assets, liabilities, and operations

 of a provider, and formulate the corrective order with respect

 to the provider. The fees, costs, and expenses relating to

 consultants must be borne by the affected provider.
- (2) If an impairment occurs, the office must take any action necessary to place the provider under regulatory control, including any remedy available under chapter 631. An impairment is sufficient grounds for the department to be appointed as receiver as provided in chapter 631. Notwithstanding s. 631.011, impairment of a provider, for purposes of s. 631.051, is defined according to the term "impaired" under s. 651.011. The office may forego taking action for up to 180 days after the impairment if the office finds there is a reasonable expectation that the impairment may be eliminated within the 180-day period.
- (3) There is no liability on the part of, and a cause of action may not arise against, the commission, department, or

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office, or their employees or agents, for any action they take in the performance of their powers and duties under this section.

- (4) The office shall transmit any notice that may result in regulatory action by registered mail, certified mail, or any other method of transmission which includes documentation of receipt by the provider. Notice is effective when the provider receives it.
- (5) This section is supplemental to the other laws of this state and does not preclude or limit any power or duty of the department or office under those laws or under the rules adopted pursuant to those laws.
- (6) The office may exempt a provider from subsection (1) or subsection (2) until stabilized occupancy is reached or until the time projected to achieve stabilized occupancy as reported in the last feasibility study required by the office as part of an application filing under s. 651.023, s. 651.024, s. 651.0245, or s. 651.0246 has elapsed, but for no longer than 5 years from the date of issuance of the certificate of occupancy.
- (7) The commission may adopt rules to administer this section, including, but not limited to, rules regarding corrective action plans, revised corrective action plans, corrective orders, and procedures to be followed in the event of a regulatory action level event or an impairment.

Section 17. Paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (1) of section 651.035, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (7) through (10) are added to that section, to read:

- 651.035 Minimum liquid reserve requirements.—
- (1) A provider shall maintain in escrow a minimum liquid

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reserve consisting of the following reserves, as applicable:

- (a) Each provider shall maintain in escrow as a debt service reserve the aggregate amount of all principal and interest payments due during the fiscal year on any mortgage loan or other long-term financing of the facility, including property taxes as recorded in the audited financial report statements required under s. 651.026. The amount must include any leasehold payments and all costs related to such payments. If principal payments are not due during the fiscal year, the provider must shall maintain in escrow as a minimum liquid reserve an amount equal to interest payments due during the next 12 months on any mortgage loan or other long-term financing of the facility, including property taxes. If a provider does not have a mortgage loan or other financing on the facility, the provider must deposit monthly in escrow as a minimum liquid reserve an amount equal to one-twelfth of the annual property tax liability as indicated in the most recent tax notice provided pursuant to s. 197.322(3).
- (b) A provider that has outstanding indebtedness that requires a debt service reserve to be held in escrow pursuant to a trust indenture or mortgage lien on the facility and for which the debt service reserve may only be used to pay principal and interest payments on the debt that the debtor is obligated to pay, and which may include property taxes and insurance, may include such debt service reserve in computing the minimum liquid reserve needed to satisfy this subsection if the provider furnishes to the office a copy of the agreement under which such debt service is held, together with a statement of the amount being held in escrow for the debt service reserve, certified by

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the lender or trustee and the provider to be correct. The trustee shall provide the office with any information concerning the debt service reserve account upon request of the provider or the office. Such separate debt service reserves, if any, are not subject to the transfer provisions set forth in subsection (8).

(c) Each provider shall maintain in escrow an operating reserve equal to 30 percent of the total operating expenses projected in the feasibility study required by s. 651.023 for the first 12 months of operation. Thereafter, each provider shall maintain in escrow an operating reserve equal to 15 percent of the total operating expenses in the annual report filed pursuant to s. 651.026. If a provider has been in operation for more than 12 months, the total annual operating expenses must shall be determined by averaging the total annual operating expenses reported to the office by the number of annual reports filed with the office within the preceding 3-year period subject to adjustment if there is a change in the number of facilities owned. For purposes of this subsection, total annual operating expenses include all expenses of the facility except+ depreciation and amortization; interest and property taxes included in paragraph (a); extraordinary expenses that are adequately explained and documented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; liability insurance premiums in excess of those paid in calendar year 1999; and changes in the obligation to provide future services to current residents. For providers initially licensed during or after calendar year 1999, liability insurance must shall be included in the total operating expenses in an amount not to exceed the premium paid during the first 12 months of facility operation. Beginning

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January 1, 1993, The operating reserves required under this subsection <u>must</u> shall be in an unencumbered account held in escrow for the benefit of the residents. Such funds may not be encumbered or subject to any liens or charges by the escrow agent or judgments, garnishments, or creditors' claims against the provider or facility. However, if a facility had a lien, mortgage, trust indenture, or similar debt instrument in place before January 1, 1993, which encumbered all or any part of the reserves required by this subsection and such funds were used to meet the requirements of this subsection, then such arrangement may be continued, unless a refinancing or acquisition has occurred, and the provider <u>is</u> shall be in compliance with this subsection.

- (7) (a) A provider may withdraw funds held in escrow without the approval of the office if the amount held in escrow exceeds the requirements of this section and if the withdrawal will not affect compliance with this section.
- (b) 1. For all other proposed withdrawals, in order to receive the consent of the office, the provider must file documentation showing why the withdrawal is necessary for the continued operation of the facility and such additional information as the office reasonably requires.
- 2. The office shall notify the provider when the filing is deemed complete. If the provider has complied with all prior requests for information, the filing is deemed complete after 30 days without communication from the office.
- 3. Within 30 days after the date a file is deemed complete, the office shall provide the provider with written notice of its approval or disapproval of the request. The office may

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disapprove any request to withdraw such funds if it determines that the withdrawal is not in the best interest of the residents.

- (8) The office may order the immediate transfer of up to 100 percent of the funds held in the minimum liquid reserve to the custody of the department pursuant to part III of chapter 625 if the office finds that the provider is impaired or insolvent. The office may order such a transfer regardless of whether the office has suspended or revoked, or intends to suspend or revoke, the certificate of authority of the provider.
- (9) Each facility shall file with the office annually, together with the annual report required by s. 651.026, a calculation of its minimum liquid reserve, determined in accordance with this section, on a form prescribed by the commission. The minimum liquid reserve must be maintained at the calculated level within 60 days after filing the annual report.
- (10) If the balance of the minimum liquid reserve is below the required amount at the end of any month, the provider must fund the shortfall in the reserve within 10 business days after the beginning of the following month. If the balance of the minimum liquid reserve is not restored to the required amount within such time, the provider will be deemed out of compliance with this section.

Section 18. Section 651.043, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 651.043 Approval of change in management.
- (1) As used in this section, the term "management" means:
- (a) A manager or management company; or
 - (b) A person who exercises or who has the ability to

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exercise effective control of the provider or organization, or who influences or has the ability to influence the transaction of the business of the provider.

- (2) A contract for management entered into after July 1, 2018, must be in writing and include a provision that the contract will be canceled upon issuance of an order by the office pursuant to this section without the application of any cancellation fee or penalty. If a provider contracts with a management company, a separate written contract is not required for the individual manager employed by the management company to oversee a facility.
- (3) A provider must notify the office, in writing or electronically, of any change in management within 10 business days. For each new management appointment, the provider must submit the information required by s. 651.022(2) and a copy of the written management contract, if applicable.
- (4) For a provider that is deemed to be impaired or that has a regulatory action level event pending, the office may disapprove new management and order the provider to remove the new management after reviewing the information required in subsection (3).
- (4), the office may disapprove new management and order the provider to remove the new management after receiving the required information in subsection (3) if the office:
- (a) Finds that the new management is incompetent or untrustworthy;
- (b) Finds that the new management is so lacking in relevant managerial experience as to make the proposed operation

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hazardous to the residents or potential residents;

(c) Finds that the new management is so lacking in relevant experience, ability, and standing as to jeopardize the reasonable promise of successful operation; or

(d) Has good reason to believe that the new management is affiliated directly or indirectly through ownership, control, or business relations with any person or persons whose business operations are or have been marked by manipulation of assets or accounts or by bad faith, to the detriment of residents, stockholders, investors, creditors, or the public.

The office shall complete its review as required under subsections (4) and (5) and, if applicable, issue notice of disapproval of the new management within 15 business days after the filing is deemed complete. A filing is deemed complete upon the office's receipt of all requested information and the provider's correction of any error or omission for which the provider was timely notified. If the office does not issue notice of disapproval of the new management within 15 business days after the filing is deemed complete, then the new management is deemed approved.

- (6) Management disapproved by the office must be removed within 30 days after receipt by the provider of notice of such disapproval.
- (7) The office may revoke, suspend, or take other administrative action against the certificate of authority of the provider if the provider:
- (a) Fails to timely remove management disapproved by the office;

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(b) Fails to timely notify the office of a change in management;

- (c) Appoints new management without a written contract; or
- (d) Repeatedly appoints management that was previously disapproved by the office or that is not approvable pursuant to subsection (5).
- (8) The provider shall remove any management immediately upon discovery of any of the following conditions, if the conditions were not disclosed in the notice to the office required in subsection (3):
- (a) That any person who exercises or has the ability to exercise effective control of the provider, or who influences or has the ability to influence the transaction of the business of the provider, has been found guilty of, or has pled guilty or no contest to, any felony or crime punishable by imprisonment of 1 year or more under the laws of the United States or any state thereof or under the laws of any other country which involves moral turpitude, without regard to whether a judgment or conviction has been entered by the court having jurisdiction in such case.
- (b) That any person who exercises or has the ability to exercise effective control of the organization, or who influences or has the ability to influence the transaction of the business of the provider, is now or was in the past affiliated, directly or indirectly, through ownership interest of 10 percent or more in, or control of, any business, corporation, or other entity that has been found guilty of or has pled guilty or no contest to any felony or crime punishable by imprisonment for 1 year or more under the laws of the United

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1915 States, any state, or any other country, regardless of adjudication.

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The failure to remove such management is grounds for revocation or suspension of the provider's certificate of authority.

Section 19. Section 651.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

651.051 Maintenance of assets and records in state.—All records and assets of a provider must be maintained in this state, or, if the provider's corporate office is located in another state, must be electronically stored in a manner that will ensure that the records are readily accessible to the office. No records or assets may be removed from this state by a provider unless the office consents to such removal in writing before such removal. Such consent must shall be based upon the provider's submitting satisfactory evidence that the removal will facilitate and make more economical the operations of the provider and will not diminish the service or protection thereafter to be given the provider's residents in this state. Before Prior to such removal, the provider shall give notice to the president or chair of the facility's residents' council. If such removal is part of a cash management system which has been approved by the office, disclosure of the system must shall meet the notification requirements. The electronic storage of records on a web-based, secured storage platform by contract with a third party is acceptable if the records are readily accessible to the office.

Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 651.057, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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651.057 Continuing care at-home contracts.

- (2) A provider that holds a certificate of authority and wishes to offer continuing care at-home must also:
- (a) Submit a business plan to the office with the following information:
- 1. A description of the continuing care at-home services that will be provided, the market to be served, and the fees to be charged;
 - 2. A copy of the proposed continuing care at-home contract;
- 3. An actuarial study prepared by an independent actuary in accordance with the standards adopted by the American Academy of Actuaries which presents the impact of providing continuing care at-home on the overall operation of the facility; and
- 4. A market feasibility study that meets the requirements of $\underline{s. 651.022(4)}$ $\underline{s. 651.022(3)}$ and documents that there is sufficient interest in continuing care at-home contracts to support such a program;
- (b) Demonstrate to the office that the proposal to offer continuing care at-home contracts to individuals who do not immediately move into the facility will not place the provider in an unsound financial condition;
- (c) Comply with the requirements of $\underline{s. 651.0246(1)}$ $\underline{s.}$ $\underline{651.021(2)}$, except that an actuarial study may be substituted for the feasibility study; and
 - (d) Comply with the requirements of this chapter.
- Section 21. Subsection (1) of section 651.071, Florida
 1970 Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 651.071 Contracts as preferred claims on liquidation or receivership.—

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(1) In the event of receivership or liquidation proceedings against a provider, all continuing care and continuing care athome contracts executed by a provider <u>are shall be</u> deemed <u>preferred claims or policyholder loss preferred claims pursuant to s. 631.271(1)(b)</u> against all assets owned by the provider; however, such claims are subordinate to any secured claim.

Section 22. Subsection (2) and present paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 651.091, Florida Statutes, are amended, present paragraphs (h) and (i) of subsection (3) of that section are redesignated as paragraphs (g) and (h), respectively, a new paragraph (i) and paragraphs (j), (k), and (l) are added to that subsection, and paragraph (d) of subsection (3) and subsection (4) of that section are republished, to read:

651.091 Availability, distribution, and posting of reports and records; requirement of full disclosure.—

- (2) Every continuing care facility shall:
- (a) Display the certificate of authority in a conspicuous place inside the facility.
- (b) Post in a prominent position in the facility which is accessible to all residents and the general public a concise summary of the last examination report issued by the office, with references to the page numbers of the full report noting any deficiencies found by the office, and the actions taken by the provider to rectify such deficiencies, indicating in such summary where the full report may be inspected in the facility.
- (c) Provide notice to the president or chair of the residents' council within 10 business days after issuance of a final examination report or the initiation of any legal or

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administrative proceeding by the office or the department and include a copy of such document.

(d) (c) Post in a prominent position in the facility which is accessible to all residents and the general public a summary of the latest annual statement, indicating in the summary where the full annual statement may be inspected in the facility. A listing of any proposed changes in policies, programs, and services must also be posted.

(e) (d) Distribute a copy of the full annual statement and a copy of the most recent third-party third party financial audit filed with the annual report to the president or chair of the residents' council within 30 days after filing the annual report with the office, and designate a staff person to provide explanation thereof.

<u>(f) (e)</u> Deliver the information described in s. 651.085(4) in writing to the president or chair of the residents' council and make supporting documentation available upon request Notify the residents' council of any plans filed with the office to obtain new financing, additional financing, or refinancing for the facility and of any applications to the office for any expansion of the facility.

(g)(f) Deliver to the president or chair of the residents' council a summary of entrance fees collected and refunds made during the time period covered in the annual report and the refund balances due at the end of the report period.

(h) (g) Deliver to the president or chair of the residents' council a copy of each quarterly statement within 30 days after the quarterly statement is filed with the office if the facility is required to file quarterly.

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(i) (h) Upon request, deliver to the president or chair of the residents' council a copy of any newly approved continuing care or continuing care at-home contract within 30 days after approval by the office.

- (j) Provide to the president or chair of the residents' council a copy of any notice filed with the office relating to any change in ownership within 10 business days after such filing by the provider.
- (k) Make the information available to prospective residents pursuant to paragraph (3)(d) available to current residents and provide notice of changes to that information to the president or chair of the residents' council within 3 business days.
- (3) Before entering into a contract to furnish continuing care or continuing care at-home, the provider undertaking to furnish the care, or the agent of the provider, shall make full disclosure, and provide copies of the disclosure documents to the prospective resident or his or her legal representative, of the following information:
- (d) In keeping with the intent of this subsection relating to disclosure, the provider shall make available for review master plans approved by the provider's governing board and any plans for expansion or phased development, to the extent that the availability of such plans does not put at risk real estate, financing, acquisition, negotiations, or other implementation of operational plans and thus jeopardize the success of negotiations, operations, and development.
- (g) The amount and location of any reserve funds required by this chapter, and the name of the person or entity having a claim to such funds in the event of a bankruptcy, foreclosure,

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or rehabilitation proceeding.

(i) Notice of the issuance of a final examination report or the initiation of any legal or administrative proceeding by the office or the department, including where the report or filing may be inspected in the facility, and that upon request, an electronic copy or specific website address will be provided where the document can be downloaded at no cost.

- (j) Notice that the entrance fee is the property of the provider after the expiration of the 7-day escrow requirement under s. 651.055(2).
- (k) If the provider operates multiple facilities, a disclosure of any distribution of assets or income between facilities that may occur and the manner in which such distributions would be made, or a statement that such distributions will not occur.
- (1) Notice of any holding company system or obligated group of which the provider is a member.
- (4) A true and complete copy of the full disclosure document to be used must be filed with the office before use. A resident or prospective resident or his or her legal representative may inspect the full reports referred to in paragraph (2)(b); the charter or other agreement or instrument required to be filed with the office pursuant to s. 651.022(2), together with all amendments thereto; and the bylaws of the corporation or association, if any. Upon request, copies of the reports and information shall be provided to the individual requesting them if the individual agrees to pay a reasonable charge to cover copying costs.
 - Section 23. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 651.105,

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Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsections (7) and (8) are added to that section, to read:

651.105 Examination and inspections.-

- (1) The office may at any time, and shall at least once every 3 years, examine the business of any applicant for a certificate of authority and any provider engaged in the execution of care contracts or engaged in the performance of obligations under such contracts, in the same manner as is provided for the examination of insurance companies pursuant to ss. 624.316 and 624.318 s. 624.316. For a provider as described defined in s. 651.028, such examinations must shall take place at least once every 5 years. Such examinations must shall be made by a representative or examiner designated by the office whose compensation will be fixed by the office pursuant to s. 624.320. Routine examinations may be made by having the necessary documents submitted to the office; and, for this purpose, financial documents and records conforming to commonly accepted accounting principles and practices, as required under s. 651.026, are deemed adequate. The final written report of each examination must be filed with the office and, when so filed, constitutes a public record. Any provider being examined shall, upon request, give reasonable and timely access to all of its records. The representative or examiner designated by the office may at any time examine the records and affairs and inspect the physical property of any provider, whether in connection with a formal examination or not.
- (5) A provider must respond to written correspondence from the office and provide data, financial statements, and pertinent information as requested by the office or by the office's

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investigators, examiners, or inspectors. The office has standing to petition a circuit court for mandatory injunctive relief to compel access to and require the provider to produce the documents, data, records, and other information requested by the office or its investigators, examiners, or inspectors. The office may petition the circuit court in the county in which the facility is situated or the Circuit Court of Leon County to enforce this section At the time of the routine examination, the office shall determine if all disclosures required under this chapter have been made to the president or chair of the residents' council and the executive officer of the governing body of the provider.

- (7) Unless a provider or facility is impaired or subject to a regulatory action level event, any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate is not subject to examination by the office as part of a routine examination. However, if a provider or facility relies on a contractual or financial relationship with a parent, subsidiary, or affiliate in order to demonstrate the provider or facility's financial condition is in compliance with this chapter, the office may examine any parent, subsidiary, or affiliate that has a contractual or financial relationship with the provider or facility to the extent necessary to ascertain the financial condition of the provider.
- (8) If a provider voluntarily contracts with an actuary for an actuarial study or review at regular intervals, the office may not use any recommendations made by the actuary as a measure of performance when conducting an examination or inspection. The office may not request, as part of the examination or inspection, documents associated with an actuarial study or

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review marked "restricted distribution" if the study or review is not required by this chapter.

Section 24. Section 651.106, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

651.106 Grounds for discretionary refusal, suspension, or revocation of certificate of authority.—The office may deny an application or, suspend, or revoke the provisional certificate of authority or the certificate of authority of any applicant or provider if it finds that any one or more of the following grounds applicable to the applicant or provider exist:

- (1) Failure by the provider to continue to meet the requirements for the authority originally granted.
- (2) Failure by the provider to meet one or more of the qualifications for the authority specified by this chapter.
- (3) Material misstatement, misrepresentation, or fraud in obtaining the authority, or in attempting to obtain the same.
 - (4) Demonstrated lack of fitness or trustworthiness.
- (5) Fraudulent or dishonest practices of management in the conduct of business.
 - (6) Misappropriation, conversion, or withholding of moneys.
- (7) Failure to comply with, or violation of, any proper order or rule of the office or commission or violation of any provision of this chapter.
- (8) The insolvent <u>or impaired</u> condition of the provider or the provider's being in such condition or using such methods and practices in the conduct of its business as to render its further transactions in this state hazardous or injurious to the public.
 - (9) Refusal by the provider to be examined or to produce

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its accounts, records, and files for examination, or refusal by any of its officers to give information with respect to its affairs or to perform any other legal obligation under this chapter when required by the office.

- (10) Failure by the provider to comply with the requirements of s. 651.026 or s. 651.033.
- (11) Failure by the provider to maintain escrow accounts or funds as required by this chapter.
- (12) Failure by the provider to meet the requirements of this chapter for disclosure of information to residents concerning the facility, its ownership, its management, its development, or its financial condition or failure to honor its continuing care or continuing care at-home contracts.
- (13) Any cause for which issuance of the license could have been refused had it then existed and been known to the office.
- (14) Having been found guilty of, or having pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony in this state or any other state, without regard to whether a judgment or conviction has been entered by the court having jurisdiction of such cases.
- (15) In the conduct of business under the license, engaging in unfair methods of competition or in unfair or deceptive acts or practices prohibited under part IX of chapter 626.
 - (16) A pattern of bankrupt enterprises.
- (17) The ownership, control, or management of the organization includes any person:
 - (a) Who is not reputable and of responsible character;
- (b) Who is so lacking in management expertise as to make the operation of the provider hazardous to potential and existing residents;

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(c) Who is so lacking in management experience, ability, and standing as to jeopardize the reasonable promise of successful operation;

- (d) Who is affiliated, directly or indirectly, through ownership or control, with any person whose business operations are or have been marked by business practices or conduct that is detrimental to the public, stockholders, investors, or creditors; or
- (e) Whose business operations are or have been marked by business practices or conduct that is detrimental to the public, stockholders, investors, or creditors.
- (18) The provider has not filed a notice of change in management, fails to remove a disapproved manager, or persists in appointing disapproved managers.

Revocation of a certificate of authority under this section does not relieve a provider from the provider's obligation to residents under the terms and conditions of any continuing care or continuing care at-home contract between the provider and residents or the provisions of this chapter. The provider shall continue to file its annual statement and pay license fees to the office as required under this chapter as if the certificate of authority had continued in full force, but the provider shall not issue any new contracts. The office may seek an action in the Circuit Court of Leon County to enforce the office's order and the provisions of this section.

Section 25. Section 651.1065, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

651.1065 Soliciting or accepting new continuing care

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contracts by impaired or insolvent facilities or providers.-

- (1) Regardless of whether delinquency proceedings as to a continuing care retirement community have been or are to be initiated, a proprietor, general partner, member, officer, director, trustee, or manager of a continuing care retirement community may not actively solicit, approve the solicitation or acceptance of, or accept new continuing care contracts in this state after the proprietor, general partner, member, officer, director, trustee, or manager knew, or reasonably should have known, that the continuing care retirement community was impaired or insolvent, except with the written permission of the office, unless the facility has declared bankruptcy, in which case the bankruptcy court or trustee appointed by the court has jurisdiction over such matters. The office must approve or disapprove the continued marketing of new contracts within 15 days after receiving a request from a provider.
- (2) A proprietor, general partner, member, officer, director, trustee, or manager who violates this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 26. Section 651.111, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 651.111 Requests for inspections.-
- (1) Any interested party may request an inspection of the records and related financial affairs of a provider providing care in accordance with the provisions of this chapter by transmitting to the office notice of an alleged violation of applicable requirements prescribed by statute or by rule, specifying to a reasonable extent the details of the alleged

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violation, which notice must shall be signed by the complainant.

- (2) The substance of the complaint <u>must</u> <u>shall</u> be given to the provider no earlier than the time of the inspection. Unless the complainant specifically requests otherwise, neither the substance of the complaint which is provided to the provider nor any copy of the complaint, <u>closure statement</u>, or any record which is published, released, or otherwise made available to the provider <u>may shall</u> disclose the name of any person mentioned in the complaint except the name of any duly authorized officer, employee, or agent of the office conducting the investigation or inspection pursuant to this chapter.
- (3) Upon receipt of a complaint, the office shall make a preliminary review; and, unless the office determines that the complaint is without any reasonable basis or the complaint does not request an inspection, the office shall make an inspection. The office shall provide the complainant with a written acknowledgment of the complaint within 15 days after receipt by the office. Such acknowledgment must include the case number assigned by the office to the complaint and the name and contact information of any duly authorized officer, employee, or agent of the office conducting the investigation or inspection pursuant to this chapter. The complainant must shall be advised, within 30 days after the receipt of the complaint by the office, of the proposed course of action of the office, including an estimated timeframe for the handling of the complaint. If the office does not conclude its inspection or investigation within the office's estimated timeframe, the office must advise the complainant in writing within 15 days after any revised course of action, including a revised estimated timeframe for the

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handling of the complaint. Within 15 days after the office completes its inspection or concludes its investigation, the office shall provide the complainant and the provider a written closure statement specifying the office's findings and the results of any inspection or investigation.

(4) \underline{A} No provider operating under a certificate of authority under this chapter may <u>not</u> discriminate or retaliate in any manner against a resident or an employee of a facility providing care because such resident or employee or any other person has initiated a complaint pursuant to this section.

Section 27. Section 651.114, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 651.114 Delinquency proceedings; remedial rights.-
- (1) Upon determination by the office that a provider is not in compliance with this chapter, the office may notify the chair of the Continuing Care Advisory Council, who may assist the office in formulating a corrective action plan.
- (2) Within 30 days after a request by either the advisory council or the office, a provider shall make a plan for obtaining compliance or solvency available to the advisory council and the office, within 30 days after being requested to do so by the council, a plan for obtaining compliance or solvency.
- (3) Within 30 days after receipt of a plan for obtaining compliance or solvency, the office, or notification, the advisory council at the request of the office, shall:
- (a) Consider and evaluate the plan submitted by the provider.
 - (b) Discuss the problem and solutions with the provider.

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(c) Conduct such other business as is necessary.

(d) Report its findings and recommendations to the office, which may require additional modification of the plan.

This subsection may not be interpreted so as to delay or prevent the office from taking any regulatory measures it deems necessary regarding the provider that submitted the plan.

- (4) If the financial condition of a continuing care facility or provider is impaired or is such that if not modified or corrected, its continued operation would result in insolvency, the office may direct the provider to formulate and file with the office a corrective action plan. If the provider fails to submit a plan within 30 days after the office's directive, or submits a plan that is insufficient to correct the condition, the office may specify a plan and direct the provider to implement the plan. Before specifying a plan, the office may seek a recommended plan from the advisory council.
- (5)(4) After receiving approval of a plan by the office, the provider shall submit a progress report monthly to the advisory council or the office, or both, in a manner prescribed by the office. After 3 months, or at any earlier time deemed necessary, the council shall evaluate the progress by the provider and shall advise the office of its findings.
- (6)(5) If Should the office finds find that sufficient grounds exist for rehabilitation, liquidation, conservation, reorganization, seizure, or summary proceedings of an insurer as set forth in ss. 631.051, 631.061, and 631.071, the department office may petition for an appropriate court order or may pursue such other relief as is afforded in part I of chapter 631.

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Before invoking its powers under part I of chapter 631, the <u>department</u> of the advisory council.

- (7) Notwithstanding s. 631.011, impairment of a provider, for purposes of s. 631.051, is defined according to the term "impaired" in s. 651.011.
- (8) (6) In the event an order of conservation, rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation, reorganization, seizure, or summary proceeding has been entered against a provider, the department and office are vested with all of the powers and duties they have under the provisions of part I of chapter 631 in regard to delinquency proceedings of insurance companies. A provider shall give written notice of the proceeding to its residents within 3 business days after the initiation of a delinquency proceeding under chapter 631 and shall include a notice of the delinquency proceeding in any written materials provided to prospective residents.
- (7) If the financial condition of the continuing care facility or provider is such that, if not modified or corrected, its continued operation would result in insolvency, the office may direct the provider to formulate and file with the office a corrective action plan. If the provider fails to submit a plan within 30 days after the office's directive or submits a plan that is insufficient to correct the condition, the office may specify a plan and direct the provider to implement the plan.
- (9) A provider subject to an order to show cause entered pursuant to chapter 631 must file its written response to the order, together with any defenses it may have to the department's allegations, no later than 20 days after service of

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the order to show cause, but no less than 15 days before the date of the hearing set by the order to show cause.

- (10) A hearing held pursuant to chapter 631 to determine whether cause exists for the department to be appointed receiver must be commenced within 60 days after an order directing a provider to show cause.
- (11) (a) (8) (a) The rights of the office described in this section are subordinate to the rights of a trustee or lender pursuant to the terms of a resolution, ordinance, loan agreement, indenture of trust, mortgage, lease, security agreement, or other instrument creating or securing bonds or notes issued to finance a facility, and the office, subject to the provisions of paragraph (c), may shall not exercise its remedial rights provided under this section and ss. 651.018, 651.106, 651.108, and 651.116 with respect to a facility that is not in default of any financial or contractual obligation other than subject to a lien, mortgage, lease, or other encumbrance or trust indenture securing bonds or notes issued in connection with the financing of the facility, if the trustee or lender, by inclusion or by amendment to the loan documents or by a separate contract with the office, agrees that the rights of residents under a continuing care or continuing care at-home contract will be honored and will not be disturbed by a foreclosure or conveyance in lieu thereof as long as the resident:
- 1. Is current in the payment of all monetary obligations required by the contract;
- 2. Is in compliance and continues to comply with all provisions of the contract; and
 - 3. Has asserted no claim inconsistent with the rights of

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2408 the trustee or lender.

- (b) This subsection does not require a trustee or lender to:
- 1. Continue to engage in the marketing or resale of new continuing care or continuing care at-home contracts;
- 2. Pay any rebate of entrance fees as may be required by a resident's continuing care or continuing care at-home contract as of the date of acquisition of the facility by the trustee or lender and until expiration of the period described in paragraph (d);
- 3. Be responsible for any act or omission of any owner or operator of the facility arising before the acquisition of the facility by the trustee or lender; or
- 4. Provide services to the residents to the extent that the trustee or lender would be required to advance or expend funds that have not been designated or set aside for such purposes.
- (c) Should the office determine, at any time during the suspension of its remedial rights as provided in paragraph (a), that the trustee or lender is not in compliance with paragraph (a), or that a lender or trustee has assigned or has agreed to assign all or a portion of a delinquent or defaulted loan to a third party without the office's written consent, the office shall notify the trustee or lender in writing of its determination, setting forth the reasons giving rise to the determination and specifying those remedial rights afforded to the office which the office shall then reinstate.
- (d) Upon acquisition of a facility by a trustee or lender and evidence satisfactory to the office that the requirements of paragraph (a) have been met, the office shall issue a 90-day

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temporary certificate of authority granting the trustee or lender the authority to engage in the business of providing continuing care or continuing care at-home and to issue continuing care or continuing care at-home contracts subject to the office's right to immediately suspend or revoke the temporary certificate of authority if the office determines that any of the grounds described in s. 651.106 apply to the trustee or lender or that the terms of the contract used as the basis for the issuance of the temporary certificate of authority by the office have not been or are not being met by the trustee or lender since the date of acquisition.

Section 28. Section 651.1141, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

immediate final orders.—The office may issue an immediate final order to cease and desist if the office finds that installation of a general partner of a provider or assumption of ownership or possession or control of 10 percent or more of a provider's assets in violation of s. 651.024 or s. 651.0245, the removal or commitment of 10 percent or more of the required minimum liquid reserve funds in violation of s. 651.035, or the assumption of control over a facility's operations in violation of s. 651.043 has occurred.

Section 29. Paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (1) of section 651.121, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

651.121 Continuing Care Advisory Council.-

(1) The Continuing Care Advisory Council to the office is created consisting of 10 members who are residents of this state appointed by the Governor and geographically representative of this state. Three members shall be administrators of facilities

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that hold valid certificates of authority under this chapter and shall have been actively engaged in the offering of continuing care contracts in this state for 5 years before appointment. The remaining members include:

(d) An attorney.

(d) (e) Four Three residents who hold continuing care or continuing care at-home contracts with a facility certified in this state.

Section 30. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 651.125, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

651.125 Criminal penalties; injunctive relief.-

- (1) Any person who maintains, enters into, or, as manager or officer or in any other administrative capacity, assists in entering into, maintaining, or performing any continuing care or continuing care at-home contract subject to this chapter without doing so in pursuance of a valid provisional certificate of authority or certificate of authority or renewal thereof, as contemplated by or provided in this chapter, or who otherwise violates any provision of this chapter or rule adopted in pursuance of this chapter, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Each violation of this chapter constitutes a separate offense.
- (4) Any action brought by the office against a provider shall not abate by reason of a sale or other transfer of ownership of the facility used to provide care, which provider is a party to the action, except with the express written consent of the director of the office.

Section 31. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.