

Long Term Care Improvements

(HB 3272, HB3273, and HB3359 – All combined into HB3359)

- **Person-centered dementia care training** for all direct care staff prior to providing direct care to residents to include: 1) Education on the dementia disease process, including the progression of the disease, memory loss, psychiatric and behavioral symptoms; 2) Techniques for understanding and managing symptoms, including but not limited to reducing the use of anti-psychotic medications for non-standard use; 3) Strategies for addressing the social needs of persons with dementia and providing meaningful activities and 4) Information on addressing specific aspects of dementia care and ensuring the safety of residents with dementia, including, but not limited to how to:
 - Address pain;
 - Provide food and fluids; and
 - Prevent wandering and elopement
- Residential care facilities shall provide a certificate of completion to direct care staff who **demonstrate competency**.
- **Additional training** (on top of the person-centered dementia care training above) – **six hours annually** – in dementia care. This training may be part of any existing continuing education requirement.
- Development of a **technology-based, acuity-based staffing tool** for use by providers and the Department.
- Legislative Findings section stating that administrators of residential care facilities, including assisted living and memory care, are **licensed by an independent board by July 2019** following a process to establish this new requirement
- Requires residential care facilities to fill medications using **specially packaged medication administration systems** – including, but not limited to unit dose, blister packs or similar methodologies.
- Gives the Department the ability to impose an **immediate suspension** in Residential Care Facilities when there is critical health, safety or welfare issue – without waiting 10 days for a hearing.
- Clarifies when Binding Arbitration clauses may be used and that admission to a facility **cannot be contingent** upon signing.
- Allows Adult Foster Homes to meet Fire, Life and Safety code for evacuation times when they have **installed sprinkling systems**.
- Gives the Department the authority to license Residential Care Facilities for 6 or fewer individuals for the purpose of **servicing individuals with co-occurring behavioral health needs**.
- Gives the Department the authority to license Conversion Facilities for older nursing homes wishing to convert to community-based care.
- Establishes **quality metrics and reporting** for providers and the Department – in particular around falls, staff retention, use of antipsychotic medications for nonstandard purposes, staff training and resident experience.
- Establishes the **quality metric council** with representatives from the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, Alzheimer’s Advocacy, Elder Rights Advocate, Academic with Data/Metrics Expertise, Member of OR Patient Safety Commission, Provider Association, and the Department.
- Department to develop an **interpretive guidelines manual** for Residential Care Facilities, similar to the guide produced by CMS for Nursing Facilities.
- Department to develop **online training modules** to address top issues identified in surveys or other licensing actions.
- Department to develop an **enhanced oversight and supervision program** for Residential Care Facility oversight.