
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 1423

Brief Description: Concerning safe egress from adult family homes.

Sponsors: Representatives Tharinger, Harris, Jinkins, Corry, Macri, Kloba, Leavitt and Ormsby; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes the prohibition against housing residents of an adult family home above the first floor.
- Specifies requirements relating to the emergency evacuation of residents of an adult family home.

Hearing Date: 2/1/19

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

Adult family homes are community-based facilities licensed to care for up to six individuals who need long-term care. Adult family homes provide room, board, laundry, necessary supervision, and assistance with activities of daily living, personal care, and nursing services.

Adult family homes are licensed by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and must meet facility standards as well as training requirements for resident managers and caregivers. An adult family home must have an emergency evacuation plan that includes a fire drill plan and procedures for the evacuation of all residents. Non-ambulatory residents may not live above the first floor of the home and adult family homes may not admit residents who cannot be safely evacuated. Adult family homes must be able to evacuate all residents from the home within five minutes. In addition, each resident's assessment, preliminary care plan, and negotiated care plan must identify his or her ability to evacuate the home according to whether he or she can evacuate independently or with assistance.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The prohibition against housing residents above the first floor of an adult family home is eliminated. Residents of an adult family home must have safe egress to a safe right-of-way. Non-ambulatory residents must have a bedroom on the floor of the home from which the resident may be evacuated to a designated safe location outside of the home without the use of stairs, elevators, chair lifts, platform lifts, or other devices determined by the DSHS in rule.

The DSHS is authorized to adopt rules on emergency evacuation from an adult family home.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested January 28, 2019.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.