

Georgia's Path to Improved Residential Care



Bill Sponsors

Rep. Sharon Cooper (R-43)
Rep. John LaHood (R-175)
Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver (D-82)
Rep. Jan Jones (R-47) + more

Stakeholder Support

Alzheimer's Assoc., GA Chapter
Georgia Senior Living Assoc.
Leading Age
Georgia Council on Aging
AARP Georgia

Georgia 2020: Residential care overhaul & Memory Care licensure created

HB 987, passed during the 2020 session, sought to improve oversight of long-term care (LTC) settings while also improving quality of care. The bill not only increased staffing & training requirements in all residential care facilities, but it increased fines for violations and expanded the State Nursing Home Administrators Board to include all LTC facilities. It was necessary to establish a special licensing requirement for those assisted living providers who hold themselves out as providing specialized care for people living with Alzheimer's or other dementias. All staff, from administrators to direct care staff

must have dementia-specific training within 30 days of hire. Further, both medication aides and direct care staff must complete a competency-skills checklist. The staffing ratios articulated in the bill were a result of discussions and compromises between the senior living industry and aging advocates.

HB 987 Key Provisions

Personal Care Home & ALF

PCHs (25+beds) & Assisted Living Facilities "shall not admit or retain an individual who is in need of continuous medical or nursing care," but the law allows provision of limited nursing services, therefore, allowing expanded aging in place options.

Staffing

➤ 1 to 15 during waking hours
1 to 20 during non-waking hours
however, that such ratio must be adequate to meet the specific needs of the residents

Memory Care Centers

New code section regulating "memory care" and requiring certification by the department to operate.

Staffing

➤ 1 to 12 during waking hours
1 to 15 during non-waking hours
however, that such ratio must be adequate to meet the specific needs of the residents

Training

- All Staff, regardless of role, at least 4 hours of dementia-specific training
- Direct Care Staff 16 hours of specialized dementia training within 30 days of hire.
- New Rules & Requirements established for Personal Care Home Administrator and Assisted Living Administrator

➤ One registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, or certified medication aide on-site at all times (Hours based on average monthly census)

📖 *Infectious disease reporting & PPE stockpile requirements were added to this bill as it was passed during the COVID-19 pandemic.*