

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10367-MG-104

Short Title: Adult Care Home Accreditation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Dobson, Potts, Brisson, and Black (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION, TO UNDERTAKE A COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF THE STANDARDS FOR OBTAINING ASSISTED LIVING PROGRAM ACCREDITATION FROM THE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION FOR HEALTH CARE; SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF THAT COMPLIANCE REVIEW, AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE ADULT CARE HOME LICENSES BY VIRTUE OF ACCREDITATION; AND EXEMPTING ACCREDITED FACILITIES FROM ROUTINE INSPECTIONS AND MONITORING AND THE STAR RATING PROGRAM FOR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.(a)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Service Regulation, to issue an adult care home license to any applicant that obtains assisted living program accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Health Care without the need for further review or inspection by the Department. To that end, beginning July 1, 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Service Regulation, shall work with the Accreditation Commission for Health Care to conduct a compliance review of the Commission's standards for granting assisted living program accreditation to ensure that these standards meet or exceed (i) the adult care home licensure requirements of Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 131D of the General Statutes and any rules adopted under that Part and (ii) the Adult Care Home Residents' Bill of Rights established under Article 3 of Chapter 131D of the General Statutes. By December 31, 2019, the Department shall complete its work with respect to this compliance review and upon a determination that the Commission's assisted living program accreditation standards meet or exceed the adult care home licensure requirements and the Adult Care Home Residents' Bill of Rights described in this subsection, notify the Revisor of Statutes of the same.

**SECTION 1.(b)** Subject to a determination by the Department that the Commission's standards for assisted living program accreditation meet or exceed the adult care home licensure requirements and the Adult Care Home Residents' Bill of Rights described in subsection (a) of this section, the Commission may begin performing assisted living program accreditation surveys of adult care homes licensed under this Part on January 1, 2020.

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 131D-2.4 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(h) An adult care home shall be deemed to meet the licensure requirements of this Part, and the Department shall issue a license under this Part without further review or inspection, if the facility obtains assisted living program accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Health Care or another Department-approved nationally recognized accrediting body for assisted



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1 living programs. Any adult care home deemed to meet the licensure requirements of this Part by  
2 virtue of accreditation shall submit the following documentation to the Division of Health Service  
3 Regulation in order to obtain a license under this subsection:

4 (1) A copy of its accreditation report within 30 days after receipt each time the  
5 facility is surveyed by the accrediting body. The facility shall notify the  
6 Division of Health Service Regulation, in writing, within 30 days after any  
7 action taken by the accrediting body that temporarily or permanently affects  
8 its accreditation status.

9 (2) A copy of its annual fire-safety inspection from the local fire marshal within  
10 30 days after receipt.

11 (3) A copy of its sanitation inspection from the local health department within 30  
12 days after receipt.

13 Obtaining a license by virtue of accreditation under this subsection does not exempt an adult  
14 care home from the licensure requirements established under this Part or any rules adopted under  
15 this Part. The Department may conduct validation surveys of adult care homes licensed by virtue  
16 of accreditation under this subsection in order to ensure compliance with applicable licensure  
17 requirements.

18 Adult care homes licensed by virtue of accreditation under this subsection are not subject to  
19 routine inspections by the Department or county departments of social services, as provided  
20 under G.S. 131D-2.11(a) or (b). If the Department or a county department of social services  
21 receives a complaint against an accredited facility, the Department or county department of social  
22 services shall forward the complaint to the accrediting body for investigation, except that the  
23 Division of Health Service Regulation shall investigate allegations against adult care homes of  
24 abuse or neglect, as those terms are defined in 42 C.F.R. § 488.301.

25 Adult care homes licensed by virtue of accreditation under this subsection are exempt from  
26 the rules adopted by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission pursuant to G.S. 131D-10.  
27 Instead, accredited adult care homes shall be noted as "accredited" in lieu of receiving a rating  
28 issued in accordance with the rules adopted by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission  
29 pursuant to G.S. 131D-10."

30 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act is effective when it becomes law. Section 2 of this  
31 act becomes effective January 1, 2022, if the Department of Health and Human Services,  
32 Division of Health Service Regulation, notifies the Revisor of Statutes that the Accreditation  
33 Commission for Health Care's assisted living program accreditation standards meet or exceed (i)  
34 the adult care home licensure requirements of Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 131D of the General  
35 Statutes and any rules adopted under that Part and (ii) the Adult Care Home Residents' Bill of  
36 Rights established under Article 3 of Chapter 131D of the General Statutes.