



## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

### **Senate Bill 471: Assistant Living Managers - Certification**

POSITION: Oppose

Among other provisions, Senate Bill 471 requires an assisted living manager to be certified by the Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators prior to being employed as a manager in the State. The bill also provides education and experience requirements that an individual must have to become certified and allows the Board to set continuing education requirements for managers.

LifeSpan opposes Senate Bill 471. The Office of Health Care Quality has already taken the task to ensure that assisted living managers meet appropriate education and experience requirements. On December 29, 2008, OHCQ adopted new assisted living regulations for the industry. The development of these regulations took over five (5) years and were a collaboration between OHCQ, the industry and affected stakeholders. The changes in the regulations are broad sweeping in scope. Of the sixty-four (64) sections, forty-eight (48) have been amended. Included in these amendments are significant changes to the education and experience for assisted living managers as well as increased responsibilities and duties. The manager requirements that just went into effect on December 29<sup>th</sup> are listed below and either conflict with or duplicate the provisions in SB471.

Given that these regulations have just recently been implemented with the intent to increase quality of care AND include significant changes to the education and experience requirements for managers, it is prudent to allow the industry to adjust to these new requirements and then re-evaluate whether additional changes are needed. It would seem remiss to adopt a new requirement before the effect of the December 29<sup>th</sup> regulations can be determined.

## EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR MANAGERS

Subject	Requirement in New Regulations
Education	<p>Assisted living managers must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be 21 years of age;</li> <li>• Have a high school degree or equivalent;</li> <li>• And appropriate experience (see below).</li> </ul> <p>For level 3 facilities, the assisted living manager must also have either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a four year college degree; OR</li> <li>• two years’ experience in a health care related field and one year experience as a manager or an alternate manager; OR</li> <li>• two years experience in a health care related field and successful completion of the 80-hour manager training course.</li> </ul>
Training Course	<p>All individuals employed in a facility with more than 5 beds must successfully complete an 80-hour OHCQ approved course and pass an examination.</p>
Experience/Training	<p>Managers must have “verifiable” knowledge in the health and psychosocial needs of the population served; the resident assessment process; use of service plans; cuing, coaching and monitoring, providing assistance with ambulation, personal hygiene, dressing, toileting, and feeding; and resident rights.</p> <p>Managers must have initial and annual training in fire and life safety, infection control, emergency disaster plans, basic food safety and receive recertification in basic first aid and CPR.</p>
Continuing Education	<p>Managers must successfully complete 20 hours of CEUs every two years in courses approved by OHCQ.</p>

For the reasons stated above, LifeSpan urges an unfavorable vote.

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*LifeSpan Network is a senior care provider association representing approximately 300 providers, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, medical adult day care providers, continuing care retirement communities and senior housing communities. Our members provide care to approximately 45,000 seniors.*

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