STATE OF NEW YORK

3932

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 1, 2021

Introduced by Sen. SAVINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to specifying procedures for the closure and/or decertification of assisted living residences

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Title 2 of article 46-B of the public health law is amended by adding a new section 4653-a to read as follows:

§ 4653-a. Closure of assisted living residences. 1. In the event that an operator of an assisted living residence elects to close and to surrender an operating certificate and/or certification as an enhanced or special needs assisted living residence, the following provisions shall apply:

(a) The operator shall notify the appropriate regional office of the department in writing prior to the anticipated date of closure of the assisted living residence and/or the decertification of such assisted living residence.

(b) Such written notice shall include a proposed plan for closure and/or decertification. The plan shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner, shall include timetables for all steps entailed in the closure process and shall describe the procedures and actions the operator will take to:

(i) notify residents and the residents' representatives of the closure, and/or decertification, including provisions for termination of admission agreements and involuntary discharge;

(ii) assess the needs and preferences of individual residents;

(iii) assist residents in relocating and transferring to appropriate alternative settings; and

(iv) maintain compliance with approved plan until all residents have relocated.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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2. (a) The operator shall take no action to close the assisted living residence prior to approval from the commissioner of the plan for closure and/or decertification.

(b) The operator shall not close the assisted living residence until all residents thereof have transferred to appropriate alternative settings.

(c) The operator shall not increase the amount of any rent, fees or other surcharges imposed upon the residents of the assisted living residence, their residents' representatives, and/or any applicable health insurance plan, long term care plan or other insurance plan providing payment to the residence on behalf of the resident prior to the approval of the plan for closure and/or decertification by the commissioner, provided however, that the operator may increase the amount of any rent, fees or other surcharges imposed upon an individual resident corresponding with an increase in the individual's supplemental security income; the total of such increases for an individual shall not exceed the amount of the increase in the individual's supplemental security income.

(d) The operator shall not accept new residents or applications for residency after the operator has notified the appropriate regional office of the department that the operator intends to close and/or decertify the assisted living residence.

3. As part of the final approval of the closure plan, the department, center for health care quality and surveillance and operator shall agree upon a target closure date, which shall be at least one hundred twenty days from the actual date that the operator provides written notification to the residents and the residents' representatives of the closure. In providing notification of such target closure date, the operator shall also notify residents and the residents' representatives that additional time will be provided to residents who make good faith efforts, as determined by the commissioner, to secure an alternative setting and have demonstrated a reasonable basis for needing more than one hundred twenty days to transfer to an appropriate alternative setting, so long as it remains safe and appropriate to reside in the assisted living residence at such time.

4. The operator shall implement the approved plan to ensure that arrangements for continued care which meet each resident's social, emotional and health care needs are effectuated prior to closure and/or decertification.

5. Failure to notify the department of intent to cease operations, failure to submit a plan for closure and/or decertification, failure to execute the approved plan for closure and/or decertification and closing an assisted living residence before all residents have been appropriately relocated, shall result in the imposition of civil penalties in accordance with section twelve of this chapter.

6. The commissioner may promulgate such rules and regulations as he or she deems necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law, and shall apply to all closures of assisted living residences occurring on or after such effective date and to all closures of assisted living residences pending such effective date; provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.