

## **FLiCRA 2014 End of Session Legislative Report**

The 2014 Florida Legislative Session concluded Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Assisted Living**

Most of the key proposals to reform assisted living regulations in Florida were proposed in Senate Bill 248 and House Bill 573. Ultimately, House Bill 573 in the last two weeks became what is known as a “train bill” meaning new elements continue to be amended onto the original proposal. Amendments deal with everything from surgery center, rehab centers and nurse practice requirements in addition to assisted living and the ombudsman program.

The House passed the bill and sent it back to the Senate. Due to some of the late filed amendments unrelated to assisted living, this legislation died in the Senate late Friday. *FLiCRA supported the assisted living elements of Senate Bill 248 and House Bill 573.*

### **Nursing Home Regulations**

House Bill 569 and Senate Bill 670 relate to public records for nursing homes and punitive damage awards in nursing home cases. Senate Bill 670 passed both chambers and will go to the Governor for action. *FLiCRA took a neutral position on the final version of the bill that passed.*

Senate Bill 268 and House Bill 287 relate to Certificates of Need (CON) processes for establishing nursing home beds. The legislation would authorize the Agency for Health Care Administration to grant permission for creation of new licensed nursing home beds in Florida. House Bill 287 passed both chambers and will go to the Governor for action. *FLiCRA has taken no position on these bills.*

Senate Bill 1154 and House Bill 787 relate to nursing home guide watch lists. These bills would require a nursing home that is on the states “watch list” to post signs in their facility that they are on the list and to provide

information related such designation. Neither bill passed this session. *FLiCRA took no position on this legislation.*

### **Ombudsman Program**

House Bill 91 and Senate Bill 508 would have modified how appointments are made to the Ombudsman board and also modify the structure of local ombudsman councils. House Bill 91 passed the House of Representatives. During the final week, most elements of House Bill 91 were amended to House Bill 573. House Bill 573 died in the Senate due to late filed amendments unrelated to the ombudsman program. No major ombudsman program reform will take place as a result. *FLiCRA supported the legislation in House Bill 91 and Senate Bill 508.*

### **Alzheimer's Disease**

Senate Bill 872 and House Bill 709 implement recommendations from the Purple Ribbon Task Force which would create more funding for Alzheimer's research. House Bill 709 passed both chambers and is headed to the Governor for further action. *FLiCRA supported Senate Bill 872 and House Bill 709.*