

House Bill No. 1861

An act relating to trust funds; creating the Quality of Long-Term Care Facility Improvement Trust Fund within the Agency for Health Care Administration; providing for sources of funds and purposes; providing for annual carryforward of funds; providing for future review and termination or re-creation of the trust fund; providing a contingent effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Quality of Long-Term Care Facility Improvement Trust Fund.—

(1) There is created within the Agency for Health Care Administration a Quality of Long-Term Care Facility Improvement Trust Fund to support activities and programs directly related to improvement of the care of nursing home and assisted living facility residents. The trust fund shall be funded through proceeds generated pursuant to ss. 400.0238 and 400.4298, Florida Statutes, through funds specifically appropriated by the Legislature, and through gifts, endowments, and other charitable contributions allowed under federal and state law.

(2) Expenditures from the trust fund shall be allowable for direct support of the following:

(a) Development and operation of a mentoring program, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Department of Elderly Affairs, for increasing the competence, professionalism, and career preparation of long-term care facility direct care staff, including nurses, nursing assistants, and social service and dietary personnel.

(b) Development and implementation of specialized training programs for long-term care facility personnel who provide direct care for residents with Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias, residents at risk of developing pressure sores, and residents with special nutrition and hydration needs.

(c) Provision of economic and other incentives to enhance the stability and career development of the nursing home direct care workforce, including paid sabbaticals for exemplary direct care career staff to visit facilities throughout the state to train and motivate younger workers to commit to careers in long-term care.

(d) Promotion and support for the formation and active involvement of resident and family councils in the improvement of nursing home care.

(3) The agency shall carry out through the trust fund the priorities and directives specified in legislative appropriations.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 216.301, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to s. 216.351, Florida Statutes, any balance in the trust fund at the

end of any fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund at the end of the year and shall be available for carrying out the purposes of the trust fund.

(5) In accordance with s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State Constitution, the Quality of Long-Term Care Facility Improvement Trust Fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2005. Before its scheduled termination, the trust fund shall be reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2), Florida Statutes.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, if SB 1202 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes law.

Approved by the Governor June 12, 2001.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 12, 2001.