

ASSISTED in Assisted Living Act

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does this Act impose new federal licensing requirements on assisted living communities?

A: This Act does not modify or interfere with existing licensing rules or definitions. Assisted living communities will continue to be licensed and regulated by the State or other local authorities as they are now.

Q: Is the purpose of this Act to increase the federal footprint in assisted living and create oversight of assisted living?

A: This Act increases clear communication through voluntary reporting of performance measures identified by the Advisory Council. The dashboard will empower consumers to make informed decisions, and allow assisted living communities to gauge their own performance, without the need for federal regulation or oversight.

Q: Isn't this Act redundant because consumers already have access to necessary information about assisted living communities?

A: While many communities provide information about their services to consumers, there is currently no national, standardized resource that enables all consumers, current and future, to make fully informed decisions regarding assisted living.

Q: Does this Act mandate that assisted living communities must provide specific services, such as specialized dementia care?

A: While the Advisory Council will identify best practices to promote the wellbeing of assisted living residents, such as using non-pharmacological approaches for persons with dementia, it cannot require communities to adopt services or intervene in the operation of communities.

Q: Will the Advisory Council regulate assisted living communities?

A: The Advisory Council is not a regulatory body. Its role is to offer recommendations for best practices based on evidence; it will not have the authority to create or enforce regulations or standards for assisted living.

Q: Will assisted living communities be required to report data to the federal government?

A: Data reporting under this Act is entirely voluntary. Communities can choose to share information about their performance based on measures identified by the Advisory Council, but they are not obligated to do so.

Q: Will the Advisory Council consist only of government officials, with assisted living providers having no input?

A: The Advisory Council will include, among others, representatives from assisted living providers, consumer protection organizations, healthcare associations, and dementia-focused organizations. This representations ensures that recommendations are informed based on a wide range of expertise and perspectives.

Q: Will the dashboard make personal data of residents and staff publicly available?

A: The dashboard will show aggregated data and performance measures for assisted living communities, not personal information. It will help consumers, policymakers, and researchers make informed decisions while protecting the privacy of residents and staff.