



Dear Members,

Below you will find two important legislative updates.

Governor Healey Signs Health Care Oversight Bill

Governor Healey signed a bill yesterday, January 8, 2025, further regulating health care in Massachusetts. The bill, An Act Enhancing the Market Review Process—HB 5159, was precipitated by the Steward Health Care crisis of hospital closures and other issues and the lack of oversight mechanisms to monitor or prevent it.

The majority of the bill focuses on other settings and does not include assisted living. ALRs are included in a provision related to the State Health Resource Plan. Under the new provision, assisted living is one of many settings in a list of “health care resources” that will be evaluated for the State Health Resource Plan.

The HPC’s Office for Health Resource Planning will assess ALRs as part of its broader mandate to guide resource allocation. The Department of Public Health (DPH) will maintain an inventory of all state health care resources, including ALRs. Additionally, the HPC will publish annual reports and analyses of the state’s health care resources and will hold public hearings.

Mass-ALA advocated against including assisted living under the scope of the HPC in this law. We will continue to make the case for the unique hybrid model of assisted living to be regulated in ways that preserve its unique character and value proposition.

As the Health Policy Commission develops its more expansive work that could include analyzing or making recommendations on assisted living policy, we will monitor the work of the Office for Health Resource Planning and advocate or inform the Commission and Office as needed to protect the important role of assisted living on the continuum.

EOEA Name Change to the Executive Office of Aging and Independence (EOAI)

Today the Governor signed a bill changing the name of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) to the **Executive Office of Aging and Independence (EOAI)**. EOAI shared this additional information on its name change: “Renaming the agency offers a better description of what we do, reduces negative images around aging, normalizes aging as a natural process, and emphasizes that the Commonwealth recognizes older adults value independence and self-determination, and that the state is here to support residents in their aging journey. Additionally, the new name more accurately reflects our core values and mission.”

There will be an upcoming webinar to introduce the new brand, as well as share new resources for the aging services network, such as standardized program definitions and flyers. We will send an update with information regarding the upcoming webinar as soon as it is available. Please update your records accordingly.

If you have any questions, please contact us at Mass-ALA@mass-ala.org.

This update is solely for general informational purposes. It is not intended to replace a full review of the cited regulations or guidance.

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