H.B. No. 3961

AN ACT

relating to required posting of information regarding the office of the state long-term care ombudsman on certain long-term care facilities' Internet websites.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Subtitle B, Title 4, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 260C to read as follows:

CHAPTER 260C. POSTING OF OFFICE OF STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN INFORMATION BY CERTAIN FACILITIES

Sec. 260C.001.  DEFINITION. In this chapter, "long-term care facility" means:

(1)  a nursing facility licensed under Chapter 242;

(2)  an assisted living facility licensed under Chapter 247; or

(3)  any other facility providing care to residents who are assisted by the state long-term care ombudsman established under Subchapter F, Chapter 101A, Human Resources Code.

Sec. 260C.002.  POSTING OF OFFICE OF STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN INFORMATION ON INTERNET WEBSITE. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a long-term care facility shall post on the facility's Internet website information about the office of the state long-term care ombudsman established under Subchapter F, Chapter 101A, Human Resources Code, including:

(1)  information regarding the office's role as an advocate for residents of long-term care facilities; and

(2)  the office's statewide toll-free telephone number.

(b)  A long-term care facility:

(1)  may comply with this section by posting the required information on the Internet website of the facility's parent company if the facility does not maintain a unique Internet website; and

(2)  is not required to comply with this section if the facility and any parent company do not maintain an Internet website.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect January 1, 2022.

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    President of the Senate Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3961 was passed by the House on April 28, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 141, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3961 on May 28, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 146, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3961 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 30, Nays 1.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                 Date

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               Governor