

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services  
For HB 3595

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Hearing Date: April 1, 2025 8:00 AM

Kimberly Thomson  
Self/personal care attendant  
McKinney, TX

I support HB 3595. Assisted living facility residents deserve plans for emergency preparedness and contingency plans during emergency. By definition, residing in such a facility means that these individuals cannot easily care for themselves. They have entrusted these facilities to provide routine care, and cannot be expected to manage their needs independently.

Mary Nichols  
Texas Caregivers for Compromise  
Forney, TX

We are 3000 constituents begging the legislature to hear us.

Housing a facility full of compromised people in a single room is not a solution. It's a recipe for panic, spread of infection, and a disservice to bed-bound residents.

The legislature simply must stop trying to adopt work-arounds to the real solution to power outages.

Emergency power in long-term care is not a luxury and we simply must stop denying the critical need for more than a few hours in a few rooms. For the third session in a row, families are begging the legislature to recognize the real and urgent need to require and assist with funding for emergency generators in the event of outages resulting in not just extreme temperatures but dangerous air-flow issues in the facility.

This is not a hurricane issue. Power outages are more frequently caused by high winds, wildfires, tornados, floods, structure fires, construction accidents, grid issues, storms, lightning strikes, blown transformers, auto accidents, and faulty power lines.

We also know from a Texas Health and Human Services Infection Protection and Control Building Design Task Force that has been working for the past four years that air flow is critical to prevention of mold, mildew and disease and it only takes a few hours moisture and un-circulated air to develop an environment for hazardous conditions to thrive. This task force is made up of HHSC, industry reps, providers, stakeholders, builders, plumbers, and a cross section of people who all know that even opening a window or putting up curtains that disrupts sanitary air-flow disrupts safe air-flow in an environment housing laundry, dirty diapers, and people who may have various illnesses and infections.

Our group of family members of residents in long-term care facilities came together out of necessity during the pandemic because we were not permitted in-person access to our loved ones. We are grass roots unpaid constituents that collect no dues but put our collective voices together to support residents in long-term care and it is our strong desire to see the Texas Legislature prioritize the safety, health and welfare of residents in long-term care facilities.

This bill does not do that. It supports the industry's objections to emergency generators in the interest of saving money.

We heard in Senate hearings last week that it's a nuisance and a bother to learn about and maintain fuel. That is an insult to the families with loved ones in long-term care, particularly those who firmly believe that prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures resulted in the exacerbation of their loved ones' conditions and/or their deaths.

Please hear us and pass meaningful legislation instead that protects residents in long-term care. Residents in assisted living facilities pay an absurd amount of private money out of their own pockets every month to be safe. Let's give them that.

Mary Nichols  
Texas Caregivers for Compromise

Laurie Christensen  
Harris County Commissioners Court  
Houston, TX

Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. As a certified Fire Marshal and Certified Fire Protection Specialist, I offer support HB 3595, which advances emergency preparedness and resident safety in assisted living facilities across Texas.

This bill reinforces the importance of preparedness by requiring each facility to adopt a comprehensive contingency operations plan—a standard already aligned with fire code requirements and what Fire Marshals review during annual inspections. It supports the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in helping ensure facilities are safe, compliant, and ready.

HB 3595 also mandates timely notification to the commission during extended power outages and ensures that emergency plans are shared with residents and families—critical for coordination and trust during a crisis.

The requirement for existing and new facilities to implement backup power solutions with a clear compliance timeline reflects an innovative, phased approach to improving resilience statewide.

It provides clear, actionable safeguards for some of our most vulnerable Texans. Thank you.

Kathy Turner  
SELF  
McGregor, TX  
support