

Nursing Facility Fire Safety Act Summary

Nursing Facility Fire Safety Act

Summary

Section 1: Short Title

- Designates the bills as the "Nursing Facility Fire Safety Act of 2007."

Section 2: Findings and Sense of Congress

- Finds that 20 to 30 percent of the more than 16,000 nursing facilities in the nation lack a fire sprinkler system; that there is no record of a multiple death fire in a nursing home equipped with a fire sprinkler system; and that cost remains a significant barrier to the installation of sprinklers in older nursing homes.
- Expresses the Sense of Congress that:
 - Every nursing home in America should be equipped with a fire sprinkler system within five years;
 - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) should comply with the sprinkler system provisions approved by the National Fire Protection Association, which includes a requirement that all homes have sprinklers; and
 - CMS should work with Congress to address the high cost of installing sprinklers in older nursing homes.

Section 3: Direct Loans for Fire Sprinkler Retrofits

- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program of direct loans to existing nursing homes for the installation of sprinkler systems within 120 days of enactment.
- Authorizes \$450 million over five years for the loan program.

Section 4:
Sprinkler Retrofit Assistance Grants

- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to existing nursing homes for the installation of sprinkler systems within 120 days of enactment.
- Directs the Secretary to give priority to those applications from facilities that demonstrate a need or hardship.
- Authorizes \$100 million over five years for the grant program.

Section 5: Consultation
and Evaluation of Alternatives

- Directs the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development to determine if there are loan programs or other funds available for retrofitting nursing facilities in addition to those authorized in this Act

Allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate, in unique circumstances, where a facility does not have an adequate structure to retrofit the entire facility within a reasonable timeframe. In such instances, the Secretary shall work with the facility to identify other remedial actions.