

Subject Assisted living facilities; response to resident emergencies

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Overview

Assisted living facilities are regulated by the commissioner of health and provide housing and assisted living services to facility residents. This bill permits the commissioner of health to increase fine amounts imposed on assisted living facilities in certain circumstances and modifies requirements for assisted living facilities regarding having plans to immediately respond to resident emergencies, having policies and procedures to implement for resident emergencies, having staff on site who are trained in emergency response, and training in handling resident emergencies that unlicensed personnel must complete.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Additional penalties.
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Amends § 144G.31, subd. 7. The maximum fine amounts the commissioner of health may impose for violations of assisted living facility statutes are set in statute and are based on the level of the violation (the extent of the impact on or harm to residents) and the scope of the violation (whether the violation is isolated, a pattern, or widespread). This section allows the commissioner to increase a fine to an amount over the maximum set in statute if the violation resulted in serious injury or death and the licensee's conduct was sufficiently egregious to warrant an increase.

2	Minimum requirements.
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Amends § 144G.41, subd. 1. Adds to the minimum requirements that assisted living facilities must meet, requirements to:

- have a plan to immediately attend to resident needs in an emergency; and
- ensure that a person trained in emergency response is on site 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Section	Description
3	<p>Policies and procedures.</p> <p>Amends § 144G.41, subd. 2. Adds to the minimum policies and procedures assisted living facilities must have in place, to require assisted living facilities to have policies and procedures for emergency procedures to initiate when a resident experiences an emergency. Requires all policies and procedures to be made available to residents and resident representatives on request, and requires policies and procedures regarding emergencies to be provided to prospective residents before admission and to current residents at the time of each nursing assessment.</p>
4	<p>Training and evaluation of unlicensed personnel.</p> <p>Amends § 144G.61, subd. 2. Specifies the training on handling emergency situations provided to unlicensed personnel at assisted living facilities must include how to handle resident falls, heart events, difficulty breathing, bleeding, and choking.</p>



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