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Governor Cuomo Signs into Law Measure Streamlining Licensing Process for Assisted Living
Enhances Area Providers Ability to Meet the Growing Needs of Elderly New Yorkers

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today signed a measure that will reduce red-tape and expedite the review of license applications and allow providers to expand vital housing and services to elderly residents they serve.

Specifically, the measure, endorsed by the Empire State Association of Assisted Living (ESAAL), will allow existing licensees in good standing to use a streamlined application process when seeking approval to obtain or expand an Adult Care Facility (“ACF”) or Assisted Living Residence (“ALR”) license.

Current law and regulations are burdensome, labor-intensive and involve volumes of unnecessary paperwork for all ACF and ALR applicants. As a result, the application review process has become backlogged with literally hundreds of applications pending for several years.

“New York businesses have struggled with the delays in the licensing application process,” said Lisa Newcomb, ESAAL’s executive director. “These delays have been an impediment to economic development in New York and needlessly hindered important licensed senior housing and services needed by our aging population. This legislation will help alleviate this burden.”

Recently the state Department of Health has developed a variety of approaches designed to address existing problems in the approval process, including:

- allowing third-party certification for architectural components of license applications;
- providing on-site review of facility policies, such as menus and resident activity schedules;
- simultaneously considering core elements of applications submitted by a common operator; and
- convening a workgroup to review and reform the existing process.

“This new law will build upon these streamlining efforts by authorizing the creation of a new, separate fast-track application for existing operators in good standing seeking to open an additional facility of the same type previously approved by the Department,” said Jim Kane, president of ESAAL

and owner of Adirondack Manor Homes for Adults. “It is the next logical step and will cut months out of the time it takes to process an application.”

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ESAAL is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening New York State’s assisted living industry and promoting the best interests of providers and residents. It represents 275 Assisted Living Residences, Adult Homes and Enriched Housing Programs throughout New York State. These member residences are home to more than 25,000 seniors.