

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to home health care services; amending  
 3           s. 400.476, F.S.; revising provisions relating to  
 4           administrator management; amending s. 400.487, F.S.;  
 5           authorizing individuals under contract with a home  
 6           health agency to provide specified services; amending  
 7           s. 400.52, F.S.; revising Excellence in Home Health  
 8           Program criteria requirements; providing an effective  
 9           date.

10  
 11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 13           **Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**  
 14 **400.476, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

15           400.476 Staffing requirements; notifications; limitations  
 16 on staffing services.—

17           (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—

18           (a) An administrator may manage only one home health  
 19 agency, except that an administrator may manage up to five home  
 20 health agencies if all five home health agencies have identical  
 21 controlling interests as defined in s. 408.803 ~~and are located~~  
 22 ~~within one agency geographic service area or within an~~  
 23 ~~immediately contiguous county~~. If the home health agency is  
 24 licensed under this chapter and is part of a retirement  
 25 community that provides multiple levels of care, an employee of

26 | the retirement community may administer the home health agency  
 27 | and up to a maximum of four entities licensed under this chapter  
 28 | or chapter 429 which all have identical controlling interests as  
 29 | defined in s. 408.803. An administrator shall designate, in  
 30 | writing, for each licensed entity, a qualified alternate  
 31 | administrator to serve during the administrator's absence.

32 | **Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 400.487, Florida**  
 33 | **Statutes, is amended to read:**

34 | 400.487 Home health service agreements; physician's,  
 35 | physician assistant's, and advanced practice registered nurse's  
 36 | treatment orders; patient assessment; establishment and review  
 37 | of plan of care; provision of services; orders not to  
 38 | resuscitate.—

39 | (5) When nursing services are ordered, the home health  
 40 | agency to which a patient has been admitted for care must  
 41 | provide the initial admission visit, all service evaluation  
 42 | visits, and the discharge visit by a direct employee of, or an  
 43 | individual under contract with, the home health agency. Services  
 44 | provided by individuals under contract with ~~others under~~  
 45 | ~~contractual arrangements to~~ a home health agency must be  
 46 | monitored and managed by the admitting home health agency. The  
 47 | admitting home health agency is fully responsible for ensuring  
 48 | that all care provided through its employees or contract staff  
 49 | is delivered in accordance with this part and applicable rules.

50 | **Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section**

51 **400.52, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

52 400.52 Excellence in Home Health Program.—

53 (2) (a) The agency shall adopt rules establishing criteria  
54 for the program which must include, at a minimum, ~~meeting~~  
55 standards that are adaptable to all types of home health  
56 agencies, regardless of payor type, patient population, or  
57 service designation. The criteria must include relating to:

58 1. Patient or client satisfaction, including communication  
59 and willingness to recommend the home health agency.

60 2. Service excellence.

61 a. For skilled providers, outcomes related to clinical  
62 improvements, such as reducing adverse events, unplanned  
63 emergency care, or hospitalizations.

64 b. For nonskilled providers, contributions to daily living  
65 support, personal care quality, and overall client well-being.

66 3. Workforce stability and development, including employee  
67 satisfaction, retention rates, and training initiatives  
68 appropriate to the home health agency's services.

69 4. Innovation in care delivery, such as implementing new  
70 technologies, caregiver education programs, or tailored  
71 approaches to meeting patient or client needs.

72 ~~2. Patients requiring emergency care for wound infections.~~

73 ~~3. Patients admitted or readmitted to an acute care~~  
74 ~~hospital.~~

75 ~~4. Patient improvement in the activities of daily living.~~

- 76 |       ~~5. Employee satisfaction.~~
- 77 |       ~~6. Quality of employee training.~~
- 78 |       ~~7. Employee retention rates.~~
- 79 |       ~~8. High performance under federal Medicaid electronic~~
- 80 | ~~visit verification requirements.~~

81 |       **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.