

## **Improvements to Assisted Living Communities and Other Senior Living Options**

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**The problem:** While Assisted Living Communities (ALCs) and large Personal Care Homes (PCHs) provide alternatives to nursing homes, many Georgians cannot afford private pay assisted living communities or large personal care homes. Because of this, a number of older adults with limited means, including those living in affordable housing, end up in nursing homes when generally all they need is assistance with daily living due to changes in health status. Such seniors need the home and community-based services provided under CCSP and SOURCE, but these programs are not available in assisted living or personal care homes of more than 24 beds.

**What other states are doing:** Currently 46 states and Washington, D.C. offer some Medicaid coverage for assisted living expenses.

**What this legislation would do:** A change in legislation would allow for older adults with limited means to have access to care provided in assisted living settings and larger personal care homes.

Specifically, legislation would: 1) amend Georgia's assisted living community statute to delete the prohibition of ALCs enrolling as a Medicaid provider and receiving Medicaid funds; and 2) add a section to the Georgia law on Community Care and Services for the Elderly to prohibit the availability of Medicaid funds from being restricted by state requirements that are more stringent than those under federal law or regulation. These changes will expand choice for older Georgians, allowing seniors to live in assisted living communities to take advantage of home and community-based services under Georgia's Elderly and Disabled Medicaid waiver, thus presenting another alternative to more expensive nursing home care.

### **Any opposition:**

Community care services providers are concerned that allowing Medicaid in ALCs will strain funds available under the EDWP.

### **Helpful Resources:**

LeadingAge Georgia and National, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, LTSS Center @ UMass Boston, American Council on Aging