



House panel OKs nursing home changes

Posted by Monique Garcia at 7:08 p.m.

A House committee today approved legislation that would toughen rules for facilities that care for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled.

The idea is to set up new regulations for those facilities instead of lumping them under the same guidelines that apply to nursing homes. The state wants the homes to focus on rehabilitation instead of warehousing residents who may have the ability to re-enter society, said sponsoring Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago.

Some of the changes were sparked by a Tribune investigative series last year about a North Side facility now called Alden Village North, where 13 children and young adults have died since 2000.